

Meeting Notes

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting MaineDOT – ACEC of Maine

Date: January 12, 2009
Place/Time: Main Conference Room, MDOT; 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Attendees: MaineDOT:

ACEC of Maine:

Meeting Purpose was to share recent subcommittee meeting issues and topics for upcoming meetings as well as to gain insight of MaineDOTs upcoming program and how consultants can contribute.

Welcome and Introductions

- Mention was given that updates were scheduled to be made to the Committee Rosters and input from interested volunteers would be gladly accepted. Although not handed out at the meeting the following is offered for everyone's review as we proceed with the Committee.

Mission Statement

The MaineDOT and ACEC of Maine seek to enhance our professional relationship in support of the common goal to provide quality, responsive and cost effective transportation solutions through effective communication and cooperative working relationships.

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain an open dialogue and build working relationships between MDOT and ACEC of Maine
- Through teamwork, affect continuous process refinement that will result in quality products and efficient business practices.
- Provide an open forum to present and consider concerns of either party for further actions, where appropriate.
- Share professional and technical information for the common goal of improving project development, management and delivery systems.

Report From Each Subcommittee

- Bridge Subcommittee
 - The Bridge subcommittee has been meeting but no updates available.
- CADD Subcommittee
 - The CADD subcommittee has not met recently and would likely not meet until the MaineDOT has a chance to finish reformatting the group.
 - MaineDOT is still committed to InRoads but is rethinking the large number of technicians refining and developing program customization.
 - MaineDOT may be reaching out to ACEC consultants for assistance, e.g. how valuable is customization and where is it necessary.

- MaineDOT is looking to transition MX projects.
- MaineDOT is trying to understand the limitations of InRoads as well as what should be expected from all designers using InRoads.
- MaineDOT is looking to understand how other States are using InRoads.
- Electronic Deliverables are still an area requiring more investigation. It appears there is a wide variation of interpretation.
- Highway Subcommittee
 - Highway subcommittee has not met for awhile but is anticipating meeting in February
- RFQ/RFP
 - Subcommittee worked with CPO to review draft RFQ and provided comments.
 - ACEC also worked with ACEC National to provide FHWA and the CPO with QBS examples being used across the Country. Through collaboration it appears MaineDOT now has a set of procurement guidelines that minimizes both MaineDOT Project manager and consultant effort while providing a framework that ensures a fair competition and quality selection.
 - As a subset of the RFQ/RFP subcommittee the following topics were offered as it pertains to the current GCA process.
 - There are essentially three categories of project size and subsequent selection procedures, e.g. <\$100,000, \$100,000 to \$500,000 and >\$500,000.
 - MaineDOT has recognized the extraordinary work that may be coming from the Stimulus package and so is considering extending existing GCAs to 2011. There are a number of issues to be addressed to be sure a fair and equitable system is put in place.
 - Pre-Qualification list will be updated and the Consultants are asked to be sure information is correct and up-to-date.
 - Revised GCA Process is about 90-95% Complete. MaineDOT believes the process while modeled after at least one other State, is further along and hopes to finalize earlier than other. One goal is to position State for potential second round of funding.
 - A process is being developed that will allow firms that currently do not have a GCA to provide input and be assured a fair process moving forward.
 - RFQ process will be shortened to 3 weeks.
 - Final process will be posted. Also, MaineDOT developed a crosswalk of old and new numbers so all can be sure of which GCAs remain in effect, which areas are still in pre-qualification etc.
 - MaineDOT is using as much flexibility as possible and Thanks FHWA for their efforts in reviewing that flexibility.
 - There are currently about 10-12 projects being advanced through Letters of Interest and current contracts.
 - MaineDOT is gearing up, and requests consultants to do the same as we move towards this Stimulus package and process.
 - Consultants are requested to provide the Contract Specialists with exact and specific data requested to minimize their time chasing data. It will be critical to the overall flow of projects.
 - Consultants are asked to deliver on time; there will likely not be any extensions so not meeting a schedule is not an option.
 - There is a lot resting on the delivery of these projects including the amount of flexibility FHWA is granting the MaineDOT.
- Local Project Administration

- Committee anticipates being underway soon.
- Geotechnical Subcommittee
 - Has not met recently. Will try to get group together.

Other Items discussed

- MaineDOT has not seen results of the ACEC or MBTA Capacity survey. ACEC (Paul) would send that to MaineDOT (Joyce). A draft portion of data, ACEC member firms only, from the larger survey was given to Joyce at the meeting.
- The Bridge group is becoming concerned with the number of bridge engineers for the regular projects even before the Stimulus projects arrive.
- The Construction group is concerned with Inspectors and Residents. MaineDOT is considering setting up a NETTCP certification course at MaineDOT.
- MaineDOT is requesting that design firms review backlog as some designers may be appropriate for the 2-3 years worth of construction to follow design.
 - Bridge knowledge will be critical.
- ACEC asked that MaineDOT review their rate caps for field work as some designers likely to be excluded.
- FHWA is concerned with the R/W process and having enough staff to complete that work.
- FHWA has asked that to the extent possible ACEC and the MaineDOT keep track of 'additional' positions or jobs required by Stimulus work.

Design-Build

- MaineDOT putting together four-person team to lead effort with different sized projects.
- A template is to be developed based on these project sizes.
- Partial purpose of the team is to meet the potential second half of Stimulus work with as much flexibility as possible
- ACEC offered to lead effort in bringing folks to the table if needed.
- Stipends for this type proposal is to be looked at to be fair.
- ACEC may be asked to develop a 'realistic' level of work to be completed given community.
- ACOE and IFW initially on-board to allow MaineDOT to pre-review all projects in an effort to streamline permitting
- Utilities MOU manual nearly complete. Once complete there will be 5 teams.
- MaineDOT is working with DECD to coordinate funding and projects (water, sewer and transportation).

Next Meeting

- Goal is to have meetings more regularly, at least three if not four per year. Next meeting on April 13, 2009, 2:30pm at MaineDOT.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Dale Mitchell, Co-Chair