

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Joint Transportation Committee Meeting MaineDOT – ACEC of Maine**

Date: April 13, 2009

Place/Time: Main Conference Room #216, MDOT; 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Attendees: MaineDOT: Ken Sweeney, Todd Pelletier, Peggy Duval, Joyce Noel Taylor, Wayne Frankhauser, David Sherlock, Bill Pulver, Debbi Farrell, Norman Baker, Buddy Spaulding, Brad Foley

ACEC of Maine: Pam Hetherly, Larry Fitzgerald, Jason Gallant, JoAnn Fryer, Jim Tukey, Chris Baker, Tony Grande, Dale Mitchell

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Meeting Purpose to share recent activity on a number of issues centered on ARRA funding, subcommittee meeting issues and topics for upcoming meetings as well as to gain insight of MaineDOTs upcoming program and how consultants can contribute towards success.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- The following is offered to help us focus on our goals.

#### **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.

#### **MaineDOT Program Update from Ken Sweeney**

- June 24 is due date for all Stimulus projects to be delivered
  - TransCap funded projects are also under the same due date
- Stimulus funds were committed to as much construction and construction engineering as possible to aid in reporting requirements
- MaineDOT has a goal to expand their website with more project specific data
- MaineDOT looking to set up meeting with GCA Construction Firms
  - Understand what resources available
  - Be sure MaineDOT & Consultants are prepared for upcoming program

- CADD restructuring is underway but 4-5 weeks out. Update will be given at next meeting.

**Project Development Update with Joyce Taylor**

- MaineDOT asked what they can do to get 'out-of-state' staff committed to projects. History is that early commitments made then staff not available. Goal is to be sure enough staff is available for upcoming construction season.
- GCA is process not complete, but expectation is most submitting on Construction will be contracted.
- MaineDOT is moving in a direction that will make it much more reliant on Consultants. A goal is to get the MaineDOT staff level to a more steady-state and rely more heavily on consultants.
- Are there any special needs or conditions that would assist consultants with providing this amount of assistance, e.g. longer term contracts, overhead rates, salary caps, project lead times, etc.
- MaineDOT is currently experimenting with 'embedded' consultant staff to meet some fast paced goals and due dates; all going well. This strategy may continue in other programs.
- New Workplan summary: bridge projects up, highway projects down, paving typical, interstate already out to contract
- Caribou project is ongoing; currently trying to de-couple it from the Presque Isle components due to permitting differences
- Current bid results are good and may provide additional funding but still early in season
- Construction Management at Risk – MaineDOT is looking into this as an alternative to Design Build or at least another tool in the toolbox. Other States are having success. More to come on this.
- (Will provide similar Program update next meeting and will add similar for the Planning Program)

**GCA Process Update with Debbi Farrell**

- Pre-qualification process underway; still chasing additional information needs from some consultants
- Needs and review reports have been generated from all Programs
- Next GCA process will require everyone to be under new GCA
- MaineDOT would like to utilize sub-committee to de-brief process with goal of making next process easier if possible. MaineDOT recognizes this particular process was heavily influenced by the Stimulus but believes lessons learned can be valuable.
- Hope that by end of July or early August the Process will be complete
- Bridge has 10 GCAs, expect to add 4 or 5
- MultiModal is still sorting out SOQ
- Design Build looking for new/better information before Pre-Qualifications
- Highway through Pre-Qualifications
- Planning through Pre-Qualifications

**Report on Stimulus Process & Reporting with Buddy Spaulding**

- FHWA is trying to build case that States do have the capability to get these types and amounts of projects 'out of the door'.
- One current step is to 'shield' consultants from the ARRA dollars in that funding of consultant work is to be State and keeping the ARRA funds for construction. This will hopefully minimize the amount of firms that have to complete various reporting requirements.
- Job creation and sustainment will be a critical reporting metric.
- If DBE is a requirement, all are put on notice that DBE goals must be met! This will

be determined.

- Civil Rights will be a hot topic – be sure any and all construction residents are creating all necessary reports with NO exceptions. There will be zero tolerance for not reporting, e.g. payroll interviews
- “Elation” (Spelling???) software will be utilized as MaineDOT moves forward
- Current thought is that more PE will be put into upcoming program to prepare for possible funding

#### **Report From Subcommittees**

- Time prevented updates; to be shared at our next meeting.

#### **Other Items discussed**

- MaineDOT Design Build team assembled and leading effort to develop ‘templates’ for various projects.
  - 1 highway and 1 bridge right now
  - Looking to develop a ‘smaller project’ template
  - South Portland and Howland bridge projects underway
  - Freeport highway project underway
  - Goal is to have 2-5 design-build projects per year and to keep templates as evolving/working documents.
- CADD steering committee underway; more to come on this

#### **Next Meeting**

- Goal is to have meetings more regularly, at least three if not four per year. Next meeting on July 13 at MaineDOT.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 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**