

DISTRICT 6 ACEC-FL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Executive Conference Room, 1000 NW 111th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172

Dates & Time: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 1:30 PM to 2:35 PM

Facilitator: FDOT District 6 Transportation Support Division

Meeting Attendance

Representative Name	Agency/Company	Title
Stacy L. Miller	Florida Department of Transportation	District Secretary
Daniel Iglesias	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Development
Rudy Garcia	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Operations
Victor M. Marrero	Florida Department of Transportation	District Surveyor and Mapper
Judy Solaun-Gonzalez	Florida Department of Transportation	District Consultant Project Management Engineer
Dat Huynh	Florida Department of Transportation	District Planning and Environmental Administrator
Daniel Kong	Florida Department of Transportation	District Procurement Manager
Monserrat Sierra	Florida Department of Transportation	Professional Services Supervisor
Naldo Gonzalez	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	Representing Mid-to-Large-Sized Engineering Firms
Rick Crooks	EAC Consulting, Inc.	Team Chair, Representing Mid-Sized Engineering Firms
Shelley Ortiz	Highway Studio	New Team Chair, Representing SBE Engineering Firms
Enrique Tamayo	RK&K	Representing CE&I Firms
Anthony Jorges	BCC Engineering	New, Representing Mid-Sized Engineering Firms
Edwin Mojena	Atkins Realis	New, Representing Mid-to-Large-Sized Engineering Firms
Silva Beltre	Ardurra	Representing SBE Engineering Firms

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening remarks
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 7, 2023.
3. Action Items from Previous Meeting: No actions pending from previous meeting.
4. New Committee Membership and Chair introduction:
 - a. Rick Crooks, Medium Firm – Ended July 2023 – Replacement Anthony Jorge, BCC
 - b. Naldo Gonzalez, Large Firm – Ended July 2023 – Replacement Edwin Mojena, Atkins
 - c. New Chair – Shelley Ortiz
5. District Updates:
 - a. Actively working on FY25 CAP
 - b. BDI Reserved projects to be discussed on Friday, February 16.
 - (a) Targeting 3rd week of February for release.
 - (b) PSU collecting information from PMs to publish advertisements to planned.
 - c. Consultant Forum scheduled on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
6. Discussion on utilizing Engineering Student Interns on active CEI Contracts
 - a. Interns are already used in multiple roles within FDOT.
 - b. The district does not oppose this idea and believes it would be a good step in supporting the industry, so long as qualification requirements are met and fit within the categories that are available to FDOT.
 - c. The liaison team will inform that D6 looks favorably to this initiative.
7. Discussion on the role of 3D design in construction:
 - a. This is a topic on the FTBA agenda.
 - b. Discussion revolves around designing in ORD as a standard as deliverables are still very much in 2D including plan sheets, steam-lining plans in accordance with FDM guidance. Not at Next Gen stage yet.
 - c. Moving forward, the plan is to have less traditional plans and more 3D models.
 - d. Roll plot plans no longer have drainage structure sheets, as guidelines have changed.
 - e. FDM 300 disappeared, staff hours changed, and hours are not in line with effort that it takes for jobs being modeled.
 - f. There is pushback from contractors because less information is being provided, although it may be for the better
 - g. The advantages in design are clear for ambiguity or lack of detail. On the construction side, there hasn't been the adoption the Department thought

there would be, as not a lot of contractors are not using the models provided. More progress on contractors using them is needed.

- h. There are more advantages for these models in rural areas as there are less unique challenges that urban areas pose.
- i. Automation can lead to contractors claiming conflict with workforce development. Examples of aiding contractors' adaptation effort in Texas and Georgia. D5 has had a Next Gen job, where the contractor needed more information and D5 had EOR provide conventional documents.

8. Staff hour guidelines for RRR projects that will not be modeled in 3D:

- a. Feedback from a company that informed that they were given less hours than they felt were necessary for the job. However, District has not changed approach to plans production. More discussion will occur between the District and Tallahassee.

9. Career Fair Updates

- a. The team meets twice a month with Cindy Capdevila and D6 PIO for coordination for participating panelists (FDOT and Consultants) and implementing lessons learned from previous events.
- b. FIU ballroom secured for event to host 40 booths for small, medium and large sized engineering firms and contractors.
- c. Flyer for "save the date" is being drafted and agenda has been shared with District Secretary and Directors
- d. There will be a \$100 fee to participating firms for food, drinks, and raffles for students.

10. Regional Meeting Updates

- a. On-going coordination between leads and panelists.
- b. Scheduled for March 14, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at District 4.

11. STEM MDCPS Advisory Board Participation Updates

- a. AASHTO initiative: Meeting set up with Miami-Dade Schools on February 15.
- b. Working on lessons learned from District 4.
- c. STEM event occurred previous week; shadow day with 50 students; there are schools that we can work with to draw more attention to our industry; first time there is an event of this nature since before COVID; teachers attended with students to ensure future students would continue to benefit from this program.

12. Update on Work Program as a result of funding, construction costs, and any other developments:

- a. The Department continues to struggle with estimates (project costs), however the district did a great job developing the work program.
- b. Kick off development of next WP may see more shifts; CO hired a firm for independent project costing and will include a systematic review of every scope, project scope cutbacks, and controlling scopes more closely as costs have become insurmountable; need for tighter and more controlled projects.

- c. Bids are still a hit and miss – we are doing better at 3R projects; however, larger capacity project costs are not good.
 - (a) Project costing will start earlier on (in PD&E stage): Independent Project Costing (IPC) at statewide level, Central Office. Peer reviews for Department to look at risk factors to determine tolerance and additional resources to fine-tune IPC.
 - (b) Internal process to evaluate scoping as whole to tighten up. Scoping buckets include 3R scopes but there will be tough decisions on what gets finally implemented.
- d. \$150M and above construction cost threshold with different parameters for different size projects and IPC will help Districts to properly program projects.
 - (a) Big project issues involve increase in concrete and steel prices.
 - (b) Current yearly cost updates to WP may be part of the problem, particularly in statewide mega projects.

13. ACEC-FL – Statewide Liaison and Transportation Committee Items:

- a. CDAF and related negotiated contract rates not staying up with actual rates. This is still under discussion.
- b. Salary control may be precluding new people from entering into the business and this will cost the industry more by not taking care of this for the long run.
- c. Discussion of contractors wanting to cap engineering rates.

14. Closing Remarks

15. Adjournment

To-Do List

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
Schedule next Liaison Meeting	Shelley Ortiz/Daniel Kong	Schedule for May 2024	Complete
Provide Talking Points for next Liaison Meeting	Shelley Ortiz	1 week prior to next meeting	Pending