

DISTRICT 6 ACEC-FL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Executive Conference Room, 1000 NW 111th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172
Dates & Time: Thursday, June 26, 2025 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Facilitator: FDOT District 6 Transportation Support Division

Meeting Attendance

| Representative Name | Agency/Company | Title |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Daniel Iglesias | Florida Department of Transportation | District Secretary |
| Antonette Adams | Florida Department of Transportation | Interim Director of Transportation Development |
| Cindy Capdevila | Florida Department of Transportation | Transportation Support Manager |
| Karina Fuentes | Florida Department of Transportation | District Design Engineer |
| Judy Solaun-Gonzalez | Florida Department of Transportation | District Consultant Project Management Engineer |
| Mario Cabrera | Florida Department of Transportation | District Construction Engineer |
| Mark Plass | Florida Department of Transportation | Project Development Manager |
| Montserrat Sierra | Florida Department of Transportation | Professional Services Supervisor |
| Shelley Ortiz | Highway Studio, LLC | Team Chair, Representing SBE Engineering Firms |
| Enrique Tamayo | RK&K | Representing CE&I Firms |
| Anthony Jorges | BCC Engineering, LLC | New, Representing Mid-Sized Engineering Firms |
| Edwin Mojena | AtkinsRealis USA, Inc. | New, Representing Mid-to-Large-Sized Engineering Firms |
| Silva Beltre | Ardurra Group, Inc. | Representing SBE Engineering Firms |
| Roland Rodriguez | Pinnacle Consulting Enterprises, Inc. | Representing Workforce Development |

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening remarks
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2025.
3. Action Items from Previous Meeting: No actions pending from previous meeting.
4. Call to Order: Opening Remarks
5. Discussion Topics:
 - I. District 6 Secretary's Update
 - i) District 6 Priorities & Outlook: Changes and Expectations
 - Continuity of past leadership team's POV with some tweaks from DI's vision.
 - Looking for bold, innovative, creative, and feasible solutions when delivering the WP – that are constructable and bring value to the people of Florida.
 - In this urban environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to add capacity and expand our facilities.
 - II. Work Program & Project Pipeline
 - i) Work Program Updates
 - Consultants can expect major feasible projects, but not mega projects in the upcoming work programs.
 - Waiting for Governor to sign the budget.
 - ii) Response Levels
 - General discussion of low response to advertisements. The District is looking for strategies to broaden participation.
 - iii) Future Pipeline
 - 31 projects in the next upcoming FY.
 - 13 BDI projects (7 are PSU / 6 in the OPS).
 - \$4.3 billion to be used more strategically. From a production standpoint, it will be a smaller WP. PD&E are getting more effort.
 - Not signed by the Legislature yet, but we will be moving away from DBE and focusing more on SBE instead. Ceilings for BDI were also proposed to be raised but not signed yet
 - III. Quality & Process Improvement
 - i) Quality Representative – Discussion Points
 - Consensus that LREs should be appropriately padded/contingency based, especially for bridge rehab where risk is higher. Must document good examples for future reference.
 - Need for some communication on both sides on how to share lessons learned to not repeat same mistakes without signaling out any consultants.
 - D6 does not have a lot of E&O, but it is necessary to communicate to maintain that low number and ease construction.

- Consultants prepare QA/QC plans, however the staff may change, Department's needs to verify those changes.
- Consultant team would like to meet with Construction team to see what issues they are running into.
- PD&E issues – scheduling issues and resulting in last minute decision making. Want to meet with Judy and CM team and PLEMO team to talk about any other issues.
- Idea: to make a quarterly newsletter updating on projects, lessons learned, what's happening / example can be viewed on Turnpike's website for post-construction lessons learned.
- Hurts on cost the most are the bridge rehab projects. Need to learn how to deal with issues from there and minimize the construction and its costs. With cost estimates, do not mimic the existing bridge.
- TCPs during construction have been a challenge as well due to the high volume of traffic.
- Florida's Turnpike maintains a Lessons Learned spreadsheet with resolutions; consider a similar D6 practice.
- Share lessons learned without attribution; meet with Construction to address issues in real time; Symposium presentations capture key items; new bridges often require added features (“bells & whistles”).
- Tracking is solid internally; need more focus on bridge rehab (impacts to cost and schedule). TCPs are challenged by rising traffic; seek night/weekend or hybrid work windows.
- Avoid coupling bridge rehab with RRR due to specialty contractor needs.
- Statewide issue, projects must remain palatable to contractors without excessive cost escalation.
- Maintain contextual awareness of cost drivers; focus on big ticket items rather than simply plugging LRE numbers. Large quantity spikes between 90% and 100% plans are problematic.
- Ensure pay items and quantities are managed early; most exposure occurs at LRE stage. Incorporate TSM&O and Smart Work Zones to mitigate lane closure impacts.
- TSM&O successes should be shared. Apply a systematic approach to identify Smart Work Zone candidates, starting in PD&E.
- PD&E should better capture scope history behind LRE changes; integrate “IPC” methodology.
- Consultants must flag big ticket risk items (e.g., specialty needs for bridge replacements) and propose contingency or coordinate with FDOT on how to include them.
- Bridge projects face unique funding constraints because replacement funds come from Central Office.

ii) Quality Goals

- PD&E Initiatives: Align the right solutions to problems; manage schedules; coordinate with Planning and Consultant Management on timing/process.

- Design Initiatives: Reinforce QA/QC, risk identification, and early TSM&O integration.

IV. Workforce Development & Industry Engagement

i) WFD Representative – Roland Rodriguez, involved with FES, Construction Career Days, Road to Future, Transportation Academy.

- Talent Pipeline: Recruiting remains challenging. Coordination with FES and FELI; first ACEC meeting in June.
- Programs & Funding: Transportation Academy (federal funding), FELI fundraiser; leverage Inspector Aides and Interns; FIU Career Fair participation.
- Seek alignment across FDOT industry; Transportation Academy legislation aims to standardize programming in WP/bridge maintenance; Road to Your Future events are proving effective—target a South Florida event (partner with D4 and FTE), on the spot offers have worked well.
- FIU career fair successful; seeking to repeat; keep CCD and Road to Your Future events separate.
- Participated at FIU State Government & Public Sector event; strong interest in FDOT from non-engineers—opportunity to market broader roles. IMSA certificate curricula expanding (Fiber, TMC, etc.), including Spanish language delivery.
- Requested a designated FDOT representative for workforce liaison.
- ACEC WFD Representative: Roland Rodriguez confirmed.

ii) FDOT Transportation Research and Development Program

- Transportation Academy
- Road to Your Future Event – FDOT: being communicating with D4 to have an event here in SoFL / have been successful events in other districts (roadtoyourfuture.com) addresses all job opportunities, not just engineers.
- Construction Career Days – in October
- Desire to introduce certification programs to technical schools (focus on the transportation academy to be able to enter the workforce and work at FDOT)
- How to train interns and technical aids on what to do after a contract is signed
- Travel to schools throughout the state to promote workforce development
- FIU Career Fair
 - (a) The career fair went very well and desire to have another one at the same scale
 - (b) All of these events will be held separately for time management and efficiency
- FIU Advisory Board Updates
- Spoke with IMSA on how they are expanding their certification program to include fiber optics, TMCs, etc.
- Recommendation: have one central location for students to look for internships both at FDOT and at consultants.

V. Legislative & Policy Advocacy

i) Legislative Representative (Enrique) – Recent Events and Updates:

- \$350 million to Moving Florida Forward
- Discussion on reduction in sales tax
- 18-month PD&E schedule
- Reductions in budget that may affect the WP
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VI. Communication & Coordination

i) Internal Communication within Industry

- Improve regular coordination/communication with FDOT; including consultant community.
- Newsletter concept.
- Direct outreach to firms for updates.
- Work on messaging to dispel preference perceptions; broaden competitor pool; welcome firms from outside the District; ensure new firms have a fair shot.
- Perception affects new and local D6 firms alike on GEC/DW contracts.

ii) Regarding response from LORs from other consultants:

- Perception of preference on consultants, especially on GECs and Districtwides (traffic, safety, environmental)
- Perception needs to be eliminated here at D6. If the company is qualified, experienced, and has the tools, then that company should have a fair chance in competing. The larger the pool, the better we can make a decision.
- Idea to shortlist new firms on smaller opportunities where appropriate.
- Consider promotional opportunities within CEI projects and staggered advertisements to avoid market saturation.
- At the SL stage, the SC tries to bring in the companies that don't have the high residuals and # of contracts to give them a chance, but won't bring them on if they're lower ranked. But if they are close (they ask who #4 is), they'll give them a chance
- Companies come and meet with the executive team, talk to them at conferences, and have a marketing presentation

- From a CEI standpoint, availability can be a limitation because folks are working on big projects that may not be available for other projects. Workforce development is a block

VII. Staff Hour Guidelines

- i) Statewide Effort – Task team to begin a district-by-district review.
- ii) Raymond Valido & Raul Quintela to be on the task team effort

VIII. Other Business

- i) Some districts negotiate LS staffing using 173 MH per FTE month (vs. 165) and may permit up to 15% overtime, with flexibility for the CEI to manage staffing within the LS budget.
- ii) Clarified that this flexibility applies to inspection staff only (inspectors and below), not administrative/management roles.

To-Do List

| Action Items | Owner(s) | Deadline | Status |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Schedule next Liaison Meeting | Shelley Ortiz/Daniel Kong | Schedule for September 2025 | Complete |
| Provide Talking Points for next Liaison Meeting | Shelley Ortiz | 1 week prior to next meeting | Pending |