

# DISTRICT 6 ACEC-FL LIAISON COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

Location: Executive Conference Room, 1000 NW 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33172

Dates & Time: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Facilitator: FDOT District 6 Transportation Support Division

### Meeting Attendance

Representative Name	Agency/Company	Title
Daniel Iglesias	Florida Department of Transportation	District Secretary
Heidi Solaun	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Development
Rudy Garcia	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Operations
Cindy Capdevila	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Support
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
Mikhail Dubrovsky	Florida Department of Transportation	District CCEI Manager
Dru Badri	Florida Department of Transportation	District Assistant Construction Engineer
Dat Huynh	Florida Department of Transportation	District Planning and Environmental Administrator
Enrique Tamayo	RK&K	Representing CE&I Firms
Anthony Jorges	BCC Engineering, LLC	Representing Mid-Sized Engineering Firms
Edwin Mojena	AtkinsRealis USA, Inc.	Representing Mid-to-Large-Sized Engineering Firms
Silva Beltre	Ardurra Group, Inc.	Representing SBE Engineering Firms

# Meeting Minutes

1. Opening remarks
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 26, 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) Heidi Solaun was presented as new Director of Transportation Development and Dru Badri as the new Assistant District Construction Engineer.
- ii) Reaffirmed the Department's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and open communication with the consultant community.

## II. Legislative & Policy Advocacy

- i) Statutory conversion of DBE goals to SBE goals, emphasizing merit-based evaluation while maintaining compliance with federal DBE requirements.
- ii) Confirmed the removal of DBE language from advertisements; existing contracts continue to report under prior terms. There are no longer official percentage goals.
- iii) Summarized feedback from FTBA regarding limited-access criteria and the development of standardized 18-month PD&E schedules through Central Office.
- iv) Coordinate with ACEC on Legislative Breakfast attendance and confirm District representation.
- v) Next Steps: Confirm attendance for Legislative Breakfast.

## III. Work Program & Project Pipeline

- i) Two projects (87 Avenue from US-1 to Kendall and 72 Avenue 3R projects) were added to the CAP and will be advertised shortly.
- ii) District 6 has received allocations and is balancing the Work Program. A public hearing will be held October 9 at 6:00 PM.
- iii) Stronger consultant participation with 20 Letters of Response received for two resurfacing projects, may be a product of the smaller work program.
- iv) Next Steps: Continue promoting competitive consultant participation in upcoming advertisements.

## IV. Quality & Process Improvement

- i) Update on ACEC's quality initiatives and recent coordination between District and ACEC. District 6 continues to maintain strong performance with no major systemic issues.
- ii) Emphasized the importance of sustaining a culture of accountability and proactive communication between consultants and FDOT to reduce rework and enhance constructability.
- iii) Segmentation of large PD&E projects: emphasized that many PD&E studies currently in the pipeline will produce large, costly "mega projects" that exceed

available funding. Given statewide revenue constraints and recent legislative impacts, FDOT must rethink how projects are delivered. Challenge for both the Department and industry to approach future phases differently, breaking large projects into smaller, more manageable segments that can be advanced sooner to deliver early mobility and congestion-relief benefits. Reference to the I-4 auxiliary lane concept as a model for implementing “structured acceleration” within the PD&E process.

- iv) Suggested that FDOT consider relaxing certain design criteria, such as shoulder widths, to make interim improvements feasible. Noted prior discussions about context-appropriate solutions and reiterated that segmentation and accelerated delivery are a major focus and a personal “call to action” for District leadership.
- v) Innovation and Value Engineering: encourage early innovation during PD&E and design phases. Industry-driven innovation strengthens the District’s ability to advance more projects within limited budgets.
- vi) Improving Estimates and Cost Management: projects coming out of PD&E are consistently costing significantly more once they reach final design and construction and stressed the need for better cost estimating early in the process. LRE methodology is used, FDOT often applies an additional percentage adjustment for unknowns and asked whether that requirement could be relaxed. While contingency guidelines exist, the greater issue is ensuring all key project components are identified early to avoid major cost increases later. Recommendation of treating PD&E estimates as separate, risk-based evaluations with more robust consultant feedback. Recently cancelled projects such as 7-Mile Bridge and Long Key could serve as case studies to identify which cost factors should be reconsidered. District agreed and supported a joint effort between the District and industry to review those examples, evaluate cost drivers, and refine estimating practices for future bridge and high-risk projects.
- vii) Next Steps: FDOT and ACEC to coordinate Cost Estimating Workshop. Begin collection of lessons learned for District-wide sharing.

## **V. Workforce Development & Industry Engagement**

- i) Heidi Solaun serves as District 6 representative on the statewide Workforce Development team.
- ii) Construction Career Days will take place October 28–29 and planning must begin for the next FIU Career Fair.
- iii) District encouraged consultant participation in mentoring programs and student projects.
- iv) District 6 is exploring hosting a Transportation Academy or 'Road to Your Future' event in 2026 to attract young professionals.
- v) District urges South Florida firms to increase attendance at statewide conferences such as SASHTO to enhance visibility and networking.
- vi) Next Steps: Obtain a list of statewide conferences and events that District 6 plans to attend so the consultant community and ACEC can coordinate participation and establish an annual attendance plan. Begin scheduling meetings to organize planning efforts for the upcoming FIU Career Fair.

## **VI. Communication & Coordination**

- i) ACEC is developing a District 6 newsletter to share project updates and personnel announcements. A draft will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

- ii) FDOT will provide regular updates on staff and organizational changes.
- iii) Recent consultant complaints regarding professionalism during grading discussions. Such conduct will not be tolerated and encouraged respectful dialogue.
- iv) Pre-grade meetings between PMs and consultants should become a standard best practice across the District.
- v) Next Steps: Circulate first edition of District 6 newsletter. FDOT to maintain open communication channels on staff updates and process improvements.

## **VII. CEI and Other Business**

- i) Ongoing statewide discussions with ACEC CEI Subcommittee Chair Brent Wilkins to standardize PM billable hours (approximately 4 hours per week for multiple T2Os).
- ii) There will be no reps from D4 or D6 on the 2025 Transportation Symposium in Orlando this October
- iii) 2026 Symposium will include a dedicated PD&E session that will focus on how PD&E can be improved for design.
- iv) Next Steps: Continue coordination on CEI PM hour standardization.