

FDOT District 4/ACEC FL Liaison Committee Meeting Summary Notes

Friday, February 24, 2023, 3:00 PM

1) Update topics from most recent statewide Relations Meeting (ACEC/CO) – 1-4-2023 meeting

- a) FDOT discussed that they were having Defining Culture workshops at the Director level.
- b) They also talked about Resiliency, Technology, Workforce Development, Supply Chain and Safety. They also asked for assistance with getting their Phase 2 Retention plan passed through the legislature.

D4 team pointed out that a priority of the new Secretary is community engagement. FDOT should celebrate community wins. And the Community engagement should lead to doing what makes sense for the community. The Secretary wants an anchor of focus for all that FDOT does to be around the community. D4 noted that IJA also encompasses this concept.

- c) Phased Design build will try to be passed again this legislature session. Seems to have full FDOT and industry support.
- d) ACEC heard a cap on engineering fees was going to be an issue again this upcoming legislative session, but Will Watts thinks that has been quelled a bit.
- e) ACEC brought up CDAF again considering inflation. Will Watts is forming a task team to look at the OM issue overall.
- f) Design build procurement process will have some changes coming out including Project Specific Professional Liability Insurance, and FDOT taking more of the risk on geotechnical issues. A new boilerplate and procedure are expected soon from CO.
- g) ACEC said there was a push by CO to get the Roadway Staff hours finished. ACEC said there were some significant changes and wanted to make sure they were correct before they were pushed out.

2) New FDOT D4 Topics (including follow up on items from prior meetings):

- h) District 4 has met all Under-Utilized work group. Therefore, this requirement will not be included in the Consultant Acquisition Plan FY24.

Kereisha Ottey pointed out that the industry and FDOT should have a continued focus on the DBE/SB program -, as the district still needs to meet the 10.65% DBE goals in

addition to a 3% non DBE small business goals. She also mentioned that utilization of the DBE and SB firms will help the district to not revert to having under-utilized work groups again. - D4 will continue to have a strong emphasis on the use of small and disadvantaged businesses on project teams. It was noted that Consultants still need to pay attention to note 9 in the advertisements as this will to help meet the districts goals.

- i) Prime consultants have a responsibility to pay all subconsultants and report the payment through the EOC within 30 days of receipt of payment from the Department. Below is language included in Professional Services contracts:

The Consultant will report sub-consultant payments through the Department's Equal Opportunity Compliance System on the Internet. Failure to submit sub-consultant payment information may be cause for rejection of the invoice. Within thirty days after receipt of final payment, the Consultant will report final sub-consultant payments through the Equal Opportunity Compliance System. The Consultant will pay all sub-consultants their proportionate share of payments received from the Department within thirty days of the Consultant's receipt of payment from the Department.

This is a critical Department requirement and expectation on all primes, to remain compliant. This program using CITS is for professional services payments. The tracking and compliance is different for contractor payment tracking. It was noted that within CITS there is a certification note that primes need to address to confirm that subs are being paid. If not paid, a comment needs to be made in CITS as to why the subs have not been paid. These comments are reviewed. A District BDI Advisor will be put into place coordinate payment issues.

- j) Implement a new "D4 ACEC Safety Roundtable" working group.

Steve brought up the idea of ACEC participating in an FDOT D4 Safety Roundtable working group, in partnership with what D4 Safety Administrator Katie Kehres is responsible for. D4 asked whether ACEC had members that were particularly interested and involved in safety and would be interested in helping get consultant industry support for new and innovative ideas affecting safety in any aspect of FDOT delivery of the work program. This is part of a department initiative to expand the culture of safety in everything that the Department is involved with, including of course the industry partnership with consultants.

The approach is that perhaps a sub-committee of our ACEC D4 Liaison committee is formed with a focus on safety, to participate in the District initiatives and working group

led by Katie Kehres. The D4 ACEC liaison team will discuss and bring forward ideas at the next meeting. The option of the five D4 ACEC members rotating to participate in one of the monthly meetings with Katie was discussed, and will be explored, so that ACEC gets a better understanding of the program D4 is developing under Katie. Steve mentioned that a good next step would be for ACEC's D4 liaisons to identify a lead for this initiative to meet with Katie to discuss ideas and expectations; and then to "champion" the team or subcommittee.

k) Work Program Update

Steve noted that the new 5-year work program was a record for FDOT D4, at \$6.5B. This includes \$850M of 3R projects covering 995 lane miles of District roadways. Steve noted that the Moving Florida Forward proposal included the SW 10th St project and Midway Road widening, with the Midway Road project including a partner FTE project with a new interchange.

The timing of the 2025-2029 Work Program development and approval is accelerated as 2024 is an election year, and the legislative session begins in January 2024. In a separate discussion, Steve mentioned the importance of accurate scopes and cost estimates at the time of developing the program and "locking down" the project cost.

3) Local ACEC FL Topics (including follow up on items from prior meetings):

l) 3D/Nexgen Plans and CEI expectations – continued discussion and update from ACEC.

FDOT statewide is looking at rolling out pilot projects. D4 is not looking at any pilot projects currently. SOS is updated for CSS to have 3D experience. CO is discussing that those requirements will be placed in a specific separate role.

m) Inspector Pilot Program – continued discussion and interest in trying it in D4.

The results of the D2 pilot program are pending and will be discussed at a future D4 ACEC meeting once available. Matt Carlock will discuss an update on this topic from the D4 perspective at the next quarterly meeting.

n) Formal communication to consultants responsible for public meetings on the new D4 process for development of notifications and flyers to announce public meeting dates/times/locations.

D4 leadership noted that there is still a concern with poor quality in the preparation of notification letters. Failure in QC and quality of the notifications reflects bad on the consultant preparing the notifications. This delays the review time by the Department.

D4 has started using consultant reviewer prior to full implementation through the collaboration tool for FDOT reviews and approvals.

D4 is using a standard template for the letters for design and PD&E public meetings.

The topic of expectations on consultants to summarize public meetings for internal D4 leadership update the morning after any public meeting was discussed. Anson Sonnett will share the requirements/expectations with the industry, through their direct communication with all D4 consultants.

- o) Use of optional services has an impact on meeting UU and DBE commitments.

During negotiations fine tune the scope to use less Optional Services to include more activities in the actual contract. Letter of Authorization with DBE/SB work as optional services in If the activity is a UU or DBE, it doesn't get recorded through PSU and not recorded as use of the UU or DBE. PSU will look into ways to capture DBE/SB in LOA to make sure we are not rolling back into UU again.

- p) This is a follow up to our last meeting, 1.h. At the last Transportation Committee meeting there was a large discussion about increasing bid process and the role the EOR plays in the cost estimates. Central office has formed a task team to review concerns. Is this the task force D4 was referring to? Has D4 been coordinating with CO on the task force work?

D4 noted that there is not D4 specific task force addressing cost escalation and quality of construction cost estimates. D4 will participate in the CO task force as appropriate.

Additional aspects of estimates discussed that there is an annual "snapshot" in the spring when estimates are locked in as the request for the next work program. D4 noted that estimate quality and reviews are more critical than ever. They have been seeing a 20-60% increase in final estimate versus bid price over the past few months. D4 asked that Trns*Port be used for estimate review the closer a project is to advertisement for construction, specifically any project within 6-12 months of Letting. It is also important to lock in the scopes of projects earlier since the scope changes impact the cost increases after lockdown. The cost differences between bids and the lockdown are part of the district's performance presented monthly at the Statewide Performance Review with Executive Leadership.

4) General Discussion:

Another topic was discussed by FDOT. D6 held a career fair with FIU on February 23, 2023. The idea of D4 doing something similar, possibly with FAU, was discussed and will be explored by D4. ACEC participation in this type of event was discussed and this topic will be discussed further at the next quarterly meeting.

a) Next Meeting date/time: Currently April 14, 2023. Shift to May 5, May 12, or May 19? **We selected May 12, 2023, for the next meeting**

Participants (Invitees shown, attendees in Bold):

- FDOT –**Steve Braun, Matt Carlock, Deborah Ihsan, Paul Lampley, John Olson**, Gerry O’Reilly, **Kereisha Ottey, Anson Sonnett**
- ACEC – **Morteza Alian, Karina Enrico, Coriann Salas, Randy Scott, and Will Suero**