

WSDOT/ACEC-WA Executive Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

1.) WSDOT COVID Update & Outlook – Kevin & Marshall

- WSDOT employees have done a good job of following COVID protocols and the infection rate remains low.
- Traffic volumes have rebounded, but mode travel remains low.
- WSDOT has processed most COVID impact change-orders, and the value matches what was anticipated of \$40 to \$60 million.
- Telecommuting will remain in effect even after employees are eligible for vaccinations. Roger's goal is to expect employees to telecommute on average 2 to 3 days per week, which means some will be telecommuting more than others.
- With delayed vaccination roll out, it's likely that any return to the office will be pushed to the fall, possibly September/October timeframe.

2.) Legislative Update & Budget Outlook – Kevin & Marshall

- The Governor's Transportation budget prioritizes fish passage needs as a result of the injunction. Keeping facilities in a state of good repair – with additional preservation funding, a focus on improved multi-modal Safety, and reduction of green-house gas emissions by electrifying ferries etc.
- Without new revenue, there is a billion-dollar hole in available funds to support the budget.
- As was done earlier in 2020, it is likely that construction projects will be paused to support flexibility in legislative budget decision making.
- The Governor's Office is setting the stage for the budget discussions.

Van noted:

- Will be different due to the virtual nature of the session. Expects less bills will be introduced.
- HTC / STC first TVW work sessions tomorrow afternoon at 3:30/4:00 pm.
- Rep Fey's new revenue budget has been released; Senator Hobbs new revenue budget will follow shortly.
- ACEC & AGC have concerns with low carbon fuel bill as it freezes new gas tax inflation.
- A bill that modifies RCW 39.10 is of interest to ACEC and AGC as well. WSDOT may have interest as this RCW includes progressive Design-Build standards.

3.) Annual Meeting Debrief – Team Feedback

- Most of the comments have been positive, though attendees miss the opportunity to network in person.
- Specific networking sessions worked well, though even more time could have been provided.
- The use of informal networking room attendance not effectively used, though it was noted that more people are learning how to use the tools as the pandemic continues, so we should still consider keeping them.
- Several of the committee members noted networking hook-ups due to private chatting.
- Several committee members received feedback that the content was good, and the breakout rooms were considered to be positive.

4.) Annual Meeting Planning Discussion – Steve & Linea

- Pandemic continues to drive virtual meeting
- Transportation budget should be known
- Virtual meeting allows flexibility to bring in good speakers
- Two half days worked well
- Need two months to plan and get things set up as a minimum
- Group agreed to set next virtual meeting for June 16th/17th timeframe
- Steve, Linea, & Van to start agenda planning efforts

5.) Subcommittee Updates by Sub-Committee Chairs

- Design-Build – Art McCluskey
 - Agenda topics and schedules for 2021 were set during the last 2020 mtg. 7 meetings are planned, 4-5 agendas are set, dozen topics identified as follows.
 - PL Insurance, WSDOT Evaluation process, Progressive Design-Build, COVID co-location, Design-Build Training, L&I rate adjustments, etc.
- Structures & Geotechnical – Mark Gaines
 - List of topics were set at the September 2020 meeting. Next meetings are scheduled for January, March, and May. Sub-groups/presentations planned for some meetings.
 - Planned topics include Dewayne Wilson-Asset Management needs vs budget, better consolidation between TR 2.13 and BDM Ch 15, review of innovative materials – composite arch now QPL item, service life design – AASHTO guide spec vs 2.13 and BDM 15, Platooning trucks – NCHRP T-5 Committee results and impacts to BDM, resiliency of coastal bridges – tsunami uplift design, and COVID best practices.
- Project Delivery (Neither Mike nor Lisa were available for today's meeting)
 - Information available on WSDOT/ACEC website.

- Business Administration – Ahmer Nizam
 - Group will continue monthly meetings and the 2021 work plan includes the following:
 - Better coordination of virtual workflows - electronic signatures and electronic submittal approvals, safe-harbor reviews, other topics coordinated with local programs, lessons learned from audit and invoice reviews, semi-annual OEO update regarding DBE's and SBE goals, DBE committee coordination, fish passage and hydraulic programs, paycheck protection loan forgiveness impacts to indirect cost rates, credits linked to allowable cost.
- Note: All sub-committees should continue to update & post meeting minutes onto the website.

6.) Local Program Update – Kyle McKeon

- Currently have three open calls for projects, NHS pavements, Bridge, and Safety. In the near term they've awarded City Safety Projects and expect RFP's on the remaining.
- Local programs have evaluated 179 programs, some statistics follow:
 - \$33 Million awarded to DBE's, 600 parcels of land acquired, 180 NEPA's & CE's accomplished, 125 field inspections performed, 1000 open projects around the state.
 - COVID impacts slowed reviews and results compared to previous year.

7.) Update on Professional Liability Insurance Requirements – Steve & Van

- There has been good conversation to date. WSDOT will update language to address concerns. Examples of changes include:
 - Deductible requirements will be relaxed,
 - Update PLI vs corporate policy use language,
 - Clean up language throughout the section,
 - Use the Insurance rating tool for determining low/medium/high risk projects and determining when PSLI policy will be required.
- There is a meeting this afternoon to further discuss insurance language updates.

8.) Action Items and Upcoming Meetings – Steve

- Next Executive Liaison Committee Meeting scheduled for March 8 from 1:00-2:00 pm.
- Steve, Linea, Van to meet & start Annual meeting planning.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.