

NOTES

WSDOT/ACEC PD Team Meeting

April 25, 2024

9:00am – 11:00am

Attendees:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rafael Reyes/WSDOT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Lewis/WSDOT NCR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manuel Feliberti/DEA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Fleming/WSDOT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Darcy/WSDOT SWR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Olling/Parametrix |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Hancock/WSDOT HQ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Larson/WSDOT ER | <input type="checkbox"/> Suryata Halim/RHC Engineering |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Damitio/WSDOT NWR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Hoppe/JUB Engineers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Weeks/Jacobs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph Perez/WSDOT OR | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Babuca/WSP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Saugen/Perteet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Giles/WSDOT SCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Don Sims/HNTB | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cesar Mayor/WSDOT WSF | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Adams/Skillings | |

1 **Welcome** – No new members attended this meeting.

2 **Design Parameters Tool Update**

Daniele Dunjic provided an update on the progress of the new tool. She went through the Excel workbook tool and described what changed since the overview provided at the February 8 meeting. The tool has advanced quite a bit and it has undergone internal Region review. There is still some review needed, especially by the WSDOT HQTs Traffic folks, but the planned implementation of this new tool will be in the fall of this year. **Danielle sent the workbook tool to this committee for review and comment (separate e-mail sent from Steve on 4/25).** Daniele and Jim are meeting with the Region teams in May to finalize this tool.

3 **2024 Legislative Session Outcomes**

Tim Rydholm from the WSDOT Capital Program Development and Management group provided an overview of the WSDOT program status, which includes the results of the latest legislative session. This year was the short session (even year). As this is the mid biennium session, not much was added. This was mostly an adjustment based on the decisions made at the last long session (odd year). The short session was less about highways and more about WSF capital and operations. There was also some discussion about advancing clean transportation climate action initiatives. Tim shared a typical chart used for explaining the overall program, which is a 16-year future and a 24 year past view of the program (sent with these meeting notes). This is a valuable graph that shows the typical funding sources along with the peaks and valleys of the program. Tim noted that the past expenditures are not adjusted for inflation which means they may seem like a smaller program delivery in the past, which was not the case. However, the current program is at historical levels. This illustrates a lot of challenges for delivery over the next two biennium.

4 *Design Manual Update schedule*

John Tevis provided an update in this year's Design Manual review process which will start in the next few days. John already sent an advance e-mail to Steve Olling and Steve sent that out to the ACEC members. John went over the process and timing. One emphasis this year is a focus on active transportation in and through roundabouts. In the past, roundabout language has been focused on vehicular safety.

The review will be a full four weeks. However, for the ACEC members, that time will be compressed as Steve needs to have at least a week to consolidate comments. There are 35 section changes, but 11 are very small. Less than last year. **Steve will send the files out in the same fashion as last year once he receives them from John.**

5 *Staff Updates*

1. HQ Development Division
 - No updates of note this time other than Todd Trepanier replacing Kevin Dayton in HQTs.
2. WSDOT Regions & Consultants
 - NW Region is stable at the moment, no major changes (reported by Chris Damitio).
 - Olympic Region has some changes at the PE level, but otherwise stable (reported by Joseph Perez).
 - South Central Region has some changes with a new Local Programs Engineer, Seth Walker from Walla Walla County (reported by Randy Giles).
 - North Central Region has a new Engineering Manager overseeing both project delivery and construction, Jeff Deal. They are also starting a new PEO for managing Consultant only designed projects (reported by Dan Lewis).
 - Eastern Region is now looking for a new Regional Administrator as Todd Trepanier replaced Kevin Dayton in HQTs. Mike Frucci is currently acting RA and the job posting just closed for the RA position (reported by Larry Larson).
 - Southwest Region found a replacement for Chad, Paul Mason, as the new Project Development Engineer along with backfilling (reported by Chad Hancock).
 - No report from WSF (not in attendance today).
 - Ben Hoppe mentioned that it's probably time for him to leave the committee to allow for new folks. He has been a long-standing member of this committee and is beginning to transition to more non WSDOT projects. He will look internally at JUB to see if there is any interest and will also help the committee find a member from the east side of the state if no one from JUB is available.

6 *WSDOT transition to Open Roads*

Clint Hill from the HQTs WSDOT Design Office, Development Division, provided a presentation on the status of the implementation of Open Roads within WSDOT. He provided a PowerPoint presentation (sent with these meeting notes). This was a discussion on Open Roads and the Connect platform. The next steps are to publish the standards this Spring and have all new projects start within the Connect platform by late Q3 or Q4 this year. One key thing to note is that WSDOT is going to use less customization in this future implementation which makes it easier for users to transition into WSDOT if

they are already trained outside of WSDOT. This also provides better standardization, less internal WSDOT training, and alignment with the industry as a whole.

7 *Active Focus Areas*

- Plan For Approval process – Rafeal provided an update on this process and where it resides in the Design Manual (action item from last meeting). It is mentioned in other places, unfortunately the name is not consistent (i.e. Channelization Plan for Approval vs Intersection Plan for Approval, or just Plan for Approval). There was some further discussion of how this is treated on the WSDOT Design Guidance and Support web page as well. The next step is for an internal WSDOT committee to look at how this can be incorporated better in the design manual on the WSDOT design guidance web site. **Rafeal and Joseph will continue this discussion and provide an update at the next meeting on the status of an internal WSDOT team to look at this.** This ACEC committee will remain as a sounding board for any suggested changes in the Design Manual or other guidance on PFA's and the process.

8 *Other Focus Area ideas*

- Bluebeam use update – it was determined last year that mandating Bluebeam as a primary review tool was cost prohibitive, agency wide. Individual project offices still have the ability to use this tool, but it will not be an agency standard. This team will retire this discussion.
- PDB update to see if there is anything we can work on – there are only pilot projects underway at this time and only in the Olympic Region. One was added this year, a future stage of the Gateway Project. There will be no more added without legislative action. This team will retire this discussion.
- Other – no other items were added at this meeting. However, an action item was put forward to have the **team brainstorm ideas and get those ideas to Steve and Rafael before the next meeting.** It would be good to get some ideas before the end of May so they can be included on the list that will be reported at the ACEC annual meeting on June 11.

9 *Adjourn – next meeting dates?*

The next meeting will be June 27 and the agenda items at this time will be:

1. Welcome and team replacement discussion.
2. Design Manual update review process outcomes.
3. Staff updates
4. Active focus areas:
 - PFA process – update from WDDOT team
 - Brainstorm new areas (**get some feedback from all in between the meetings**)

Action Items

In **bold** text within the notes