

SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting

May 28, 2009

Minutes

Attendees:

Jim Triplett, United Contractors, Inc.
John Jordan, Cherokee, Inc.
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Corp.
Marty McKee, Thrift Development
Randy Snow, U. S. Constructors
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
Greg Cook, US Group, Inc.
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co., Inc.
Joe Sox, Sox & Sons
Ted Geddis, Sloan Eastern Bridge
Danny Shealy, SCDOT
Charles Matthews, SCDOT
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Christy Hall, SCDOT
Clem Watson, SCDOT
Todd Steagall, SCDOT
John Walsh, SCDOT
Jim Feda, SCDOT
Jamie Kendall, SCDOT
Lee Neighbors, SCDOT
Chad Hawkins, SCDOT
Leland Colvin, SCDOT
Jim Porth, SCDOT
Ed Eargle, SCDOT
Tim Henderson, SCDOT District 6
John McCarter, SCDOT District 4
David Glenn, SCDOT District 6
Bill Mattison, SCDOT

The meeting was called to order by Danny Shealy with introductions.

Old Business

Update on New Seeding Specs

Todd Steagall reported the spec is still in draft. Training classes were held and adjustments will be made based on the comments. Attendance was good for these classes.

Update on Profilegraph Issues

Charles Matthews reported the concern is that more grinding is needed to pass the test. Andy Johnson at the lab says this is a nationwide spec so there will not be any major changes. It is better testing than that with the old equipment.

A questionnaire was sent to get a better idea of the problems. Responses are still coming in. Danny hopes this will determine if workmanship is the real issue. Ted Geddis added these type questions were on the survey and should provide some answers in this area. Jim Triplett noted more failures were occurring with the new equipment and the contractors are trying to determine the cause for this.

Utility Coordination/Relocation Contracts or Windows

Greg Cook reported this was discussed at the last subcommittee meeting. DOT is more receptive to utility windows prior to construction.

Todd Steagall stated time has been included for utilities but it has not been identified as a window. Greg believes if we have a definite stop and start time then we have more leverage with the utilities. Grady Wicker added there was a utility window for projects in Laurens and Lancaster Counties and it worked well.

Jim Triplett noted the window does two things: 1) identifies the need and provides a window to get the utility work done in a timely manner and 2) contractually conveys to the contractor and utilities the expectations of the SCDOT.

Per Greg the utilities don't get interested until the contractor starts the job. This can be put in prima vera if there is a definite window with start and stop dates. John Walsh thinks it shows we are giving utilities time to do their job.

Todd Steagall stated DOT will add start and stop dates in future projects.

Utility Service Providers – Prepare for Stimulus Projects

The stimulus money will affect utilities and it is an opportunity to be proactive and let the utilities know it is time to get serious. On a higher level, if the executives of SCDOT and the utilities are aware, stimulus can create a catalyst for this now and continue in the future.

Greg Cook, Clem Watson, John Walsh and Sammy Hendrix will meet to get ideas toward better communication. DOT will provide any help needed and look at future projects to see what is coming up.

We need to identify groups and send a letter to the CEO's to make them aware. We need to know who to talk to and whether DOT wants the contractors to also meet with utilities. We should use the stimulus program as an awareness opportunity to convey to the utility providers that if the projects are delayed due to utilities, then people will be laid off.

New Business

Additional Documentation for Stimulus Projects

Danny Shealy provided a handout from the SCDOT extranet site that has the form to be completed for the "stimulus projects". Go to Miscellaneous Construction, then FHWA 1589 which will take you to the form. The form can be completed on line, then printed and sent to the RCE by fax or e-mail. RCE will compare and be sure it is accurate. It is due to the RCE by the 10th of the month. The RCE must have to Danny Shealy by the 15th and then it has to be to FHWA by the 20th.

This form is only for stimulus money projects and does require the contractor to have a "Duns" Number.

Danny noted that there are more reports DOT is required to submit. The Notice to Proceed Dates have to be reported so DOT needs those dates as soon as available.

New Spec for Reinforced Bridge Approach Fills

Charles Matthews reported this spec is in draft form now and is very similar to the NCDOT spec and details. SCDOT and CAGC will review current projects to see if the new details and spec can be utilized anywhere soon for evaluation purposes. Ted Geddis added this was brought up originally as a safety issue –

settlement issue on approach slabs. The cost for the proposed method is more, but it lessens maintenance in the future.

Randy Snow noted it is a \$10,000 to \$15,000 increase in cost for each approach slab for a typical two lane bridge.

Charles Matthews noted the next bridge project we can look at using the new method.

Future Design-Build Projects

John Walsh reported on the following potential projects:

- 1) Port Access Road – waiting on legal and environmental issues.
- 2) I-73 – DOT has permits for corridor and ROW from I-95 to US 501. Commission is looking at funding for this project, both public and private. We also have the authority for a toll. There will not be any legislation on it this year.
- 3) Johnny Dodds in Charleston County – this will be funded with local sales tax money and is in the RFQ process.
- 4) Interchange at Exit 198 along I-26. Working with State Infrastructure Bank for funding.
- 5) Mark Clark Expressway – In the EIS process with \$99M provided by the SIB. SIB promised to provide remainder of funding when project is ready for DB or DDB.

SCDOT will have a role in these projects, but at this time we are not sure how much. MPO's and COG's are playing a major role in future infrastructure improvements.

The Commission has authorized DOT to submit wetlands permits and to purchase the right of way for I-73 from 501 to I-95 and to seeking funding for this by 2011.

CAGC Conference

Sammy Hendrix reported that Charles Eleazer, Charles Matthews, Tony Chapman and Secretary Limehouse will attend the Highway Heavy Meeting June 18 – 21 at the Grove Park Inn. There will be four SCDOT and six NCDOT representatives at the meeting along with approximately 161 CAGC members.

Erosion Control Certification

Jim Triplett asked about recertification and the process/timeframe to renew.

The first round of certifications will need to renew in 2010. Ray Vaughan will send out information on this.

Pipe End Treatment

Grady Wicker asked about a need for a special provision to address the end treatments. On concrete pipe a beveled end section is required sometimes and it is incidental to the cost of pipe in the contract. CAGC would prefer to see a separate pay item for beveled ends.

Charles Eleazer thought it had been decided to add as a pay item and will check into this why it is not being done consistently.

Quantity Variations

Jim Triplett noted there appears to be a trend of very high quantity variations in the past six months, such as erosion control items. The road and bridge subcommittees will review the various pay items subject to high quantity variations and will provide a list of the "worst" items.

Incidentals on Contracts

Danny Shealy - situation on resurfacing contract where the bids were over the estimate. Looked at it and the reason was incidentals. There were pages of them. This makes it hard to both estimate and bid. If these incidentals are part of the project they need to be noted so they can be measured and paid. When contractors see this, let DOT know so an addendum can be put out. DOT needs to know at least two weeks before the letting to get out a timely addendum. Jim Feda will look into this also.

Other comments under New Business

Randy Snow noted there are fewer and fewer new highway construction projects on the 12 month letting list. Is there any hope for this type work?

John Walsh – There is no federal aid for widening other than MPO's and COG's. There is some county funding in the pipe line. We are in the process of revising STIP for a few years ahead.

Randy Snow – 27/7 used a lot of projects. With ACT 114 the commission has to approve before spending and it is creating a void in projects that are available for the industry to bid and build.

Jim Feda – The budget for upgrading shoulder and ditches is coming up. Maintenance cannot handle all of it and if contractors are interested there may be some of this type of work available for bid.

Several contractors stated they would be interested.

Sammy Hendrix – With ACT 114 we need to concentrate on counties who have money available.

John Walsh noted there is some money in Horry and Florence counties that DOT will handle for them. Potentials are 378, 278 in Beaufort and interchange in Florence County. York county has also asked DOT to work with them and we are starting to move on this.

Marty McKee – Have you seen a decrease in time from inception to letting?

John Walsh – Yes, and things are getting better with what has been identified. We are managing more county money now than before.

John Feda noted there will be four maintenance bridge projects in the July letting and hope to be able to do more soon.

Subcommittee Reports

Road Subcommittee Meeting

Marty McKee reported the committee would like to send a thank you to the appropriate person for the electronic earthwork files. Danny said to send to Secretary Limehouse.

On full depth reclamations, the curing methods are different in some districts. Charles Eleazer is getting comments and will have at the next meeting to discuss.

CAGC requested the SCDOT to be specific as to whether the contract scope requires night or day work rather than providing criteria based on ADT. Charles Eleazer has discussed this with staff and asked to have it made clearer in the contracts.

Charles is meeting with design in June to talk about aggregate Type B as a pay item.

Bridge Subcommittee

Did not meet.

Utility and Project Development Subcommittees

Discussed earlier under Utility Windows.

Supplier Subcommittee

Met in April. No report.

Other Business

John Walsh noted we are meeting with DHEC on moving jobs (stimulus), permits, etc. DHEC actually came to DOT to set up a meeting. If there are any issues I need to make them aware of, let me know as soon as you can.

Clem Watson – A dilemma ACT 114 presents with funding is we can't put out a list until a project is funded.

Randy Snow noted at some point we need to do more improvements and less resurfacing.

John Walsh – What is happening is State and Federal entities are taking a preservation mentality. Widening projects are being funded with county sales tax money from local governments and counties.

Randy Snow – SCFOR is now focusing on counties because the local people have an interest in these projects. We are not wasting as much time trying to convince the legislature to fund desperately needed infrastructure improvements.

The next meeting is July 23, 2009.