

# **SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting**

**May 22, 2008**

## **Minutes**

### ***Attendees:***

Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.  
Ted Geddis, Sloan/Eastern Bridge  
Randy Snow, U. S. Constructors, Inc.  
Jim Triplett, United Contractors  
Reid Banks, Banks Construction Co.  
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Paving Corp.  
Gene Ellison, Cherokee, Inc.  
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co., Inc.  
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co., Inc.  
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.  
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Bros., Inc.  
Greg Cook, U. S. Group, Inc.  
Ben Whetstone, C. R. Jackson, Inc.  
Danny Shealy, SCDOT  
Robert Morgan, SCDOT, District 5  
Todd Steagall, SCDOT  
Merrill Zwanka, SCDOT  
Kevin Harrington, SCDOT  
Tim Henderson, SCDOT, District 6  
Mark Attaway, SCDOT  
Ed Eargle, SCDOT  
John Walsh, SCDOT  
Tony Chapman, SCDOT  
Steve Ikerd, FHWA  
Robbie Isgett, SCDOT, District 1  
John McCarter, SCDOT, District 4  
Lee Neighbors, SCDOT, District 2  
P. M. Brooks, SCDOT, District 2  
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT  
Clem Watson, SCDOT  
Charles Matthews, SCDOT  
Stephanie Jackson Amell, SCDOT District 3  
Jim Feda, SCDOT

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

## **Old Business**

### Update on Bridge/Interstate Projects

John Walsh gave an update on these projects. The I 95 interstate rehab project in Florence will be in the July or August Letting and after that the I-95 Clarendon County project will be let. We are going through the process now to get both let.

Concerning bridge projects, the Ben Sawyer and another design build are in the process and DOT is going through the other bridge projects as quickly as possible. The Highway 601 in Congaree is targeted for the November letting.

Jim Feda is working hard to get maintenance resurfacing projects to next month's Commission meeting. The July letting will have projects in Districts 1,2,4,5 and 6. There will be more chip seal in the August letting.

John Walsh also reported the FHWA has sent them notice that will receive \$11M in federal funds for bridges. The bulk of this will go to construction on the list of bridge projects. The Commission will have to approve. The plans are ready so when the Commission approves DOT can proceed.

### Future Conferences at Clemson

Danny reported this has not been decided. DOT is looking into other locations that might be less expensive and will then submit for approval.

### Update on Closeouts

Charles Eleazer reported that the time frame is down from 500+ days to one year.

Gene Ellison asked if it has left the district office and the contractor has not heard anything, who should you call?

Sonya Adams in the contract office.

### Update on Pipe Specification Classes

Danny Shealy taught four classes this week on the new spec. Only four contractors attended. He asked how contractors are going to bid if they don't attend and learn the new spec. You need to be familiar with the spec to bid on

pipe. There is a lot to consider when bidding. Many of the contractors stated they did not know about the classes or they would have attended.

If DOT gets 30+ on a waiting list, Danny will schedule another class, possibly in Columbia at The Zone. Danny will look at his calendar and see what he has available in June or July.

Ed Eargle reported the revised spec is not out yet. A few changes were made from feedback from the classes.

#### Update testing regulations for asphalt

Merrill Zwanka reported verification will start with interstate work with the I-95 project in the July letting. Two labs are on order and testing can be done in district labs also. We are working with Clemson to be sure tolerances are correct.

### **New Business**

#### SCDOT Research Projects

Marty McKee attended a meet on April 22 with representatives from DOT, FHWA, Universities and Associations. There will be more information coming. The research committee reviews projects and votes on these.

#### Lane Closures for Highway Letting

Scott Fant - If over 800 vehicles per hour you cannot close a lane. Can DOT expand on this in future proposals, maybe give the times the lanes can be closed or if night paving only is required?

#### CPM Schedules

Danny Shealy – As of May 19, out of 154 projects 56 are more than 25% behind schedule. If there is not enough work, we don't understand why contractors are behind schedule.

Jim Triplett asked what is taken into account. This would help us understand why the projects are considering behind schedule.

Danny - In some cases, DOT is not getting project updates or if so they are insufficient. DOT can only use the data they have to determine the status. DOT does not assume the project is on schedule if there is no update to the CMP schedule. The biggest problem is the updates are not coming in.

In an effort to get these updates, DOT is considering penalties if they don't come in and are meeting today to discuss this further.

Mark Ashmore – This may be an information issue where the project manager isn't considering this a priority. We (contractors) need to make this a specific task for them and make adjustments internally.

Marty McKee – Any notations by the RC has to be in the narrative.

Danny – This is a topic at most meetings and all should be aware this has been an ongoing problem.

Scott – All of us need to go back to our offices and address this with the appropriate personnel.

### New Pay Items – Bonds and Insurance

Is there any merit to adding a pay item for bonds and insurance for mobilization? DOT doesn't know what is being put in this area. We need to know if another bid item is needed since mobilization can be in more than one area of bid.

Scott – Suggest we send to the sub committees to get a broader view.

Danny – The Road and Bridge committees should review and submit a proposal.

### DBE Quarterly Reports

Charles Eleazer – We are setting goals for next year. All DBE subs being used need to be submitted so DOT can obtain race neutral goal. It is important for DOT to get all DBE subs used. Even if there is no goal and you use a DBE, it can be submitted. DBE sub and the RC need to sign the report. One report can include several, broken down.

### Rail Road Right of Way

Danny report on a recent situation with CSX. They have shut down a project due to equipment on their right of way or on their tracks. This seems to be the main issue. They want flagmen and insurance anytime we are on their right of way. For resurfacing we will stop at the rail road right of way. CSX is to address this and get back to DOT.

### Subcommittee Reports

#### Roadway Subcommittee

Marty McKee reported this committee did not meet in April. Approach joint is main issue being discussed.

#### Bridge Subcommittee

Ted Geddis reported this committee did not meet in April. Charles Matthews sent out an anchor spec for review.

#### Project Development Subcommittee

Did not meet in April.

#### Utility Subcommittee

Did not meet in April.

#### Supplier Subcommittee

This committee held their second meeting. No report.

#### **Other Business**

Sally Paul – Seeding contractors are facing major price increases in lime and fertilizer. Fertilizer is at \$835/ton and expected to \$1,000.00 in two weeks. Lime and seed have increased 30 to 40%. Some of this is due to the high demand overseas.

This is an item sometimes overlooked in pricing and we are last on a project. Is there anything DOT can do to help?

Danny agrees. DOT is researching now and looking at indexing these items.

Ted Geddis – Need to look at an alternative to steel as the prices are very high.

The next meeting will be July 24, 2008.

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