



**CAGC/SCDOT Joint Committee**

**September 13, 2023**

**SCDOT HQ – 955 Park St – Room 306**

**Agenda**

**10:00 A.M. Contractors/11:00 A.M. Joint**

**I. Call to Order**

**A. Introductions**

See attached

**II. Old Business**

**A. Permanent Construction Signs**

The contractors are seeing a lot of issues with sign coverings. The contractors are spending a lot of time going back to recover the signs and are looking for some kind of consistency. Contractors asked that a possible review of this happens with Division 100 review of the spec book. Robbie welcomes these discussions. The contractors suggested using temporary signs on shorter jobs (30-, 60-, 90-days). This should be passed to the Road Subcommittee.

**B. Spec Book Review Update**

Divisions 200, 300, 400, and 500 are complete as of today. Division 600 was sent to AGC earlier this month for review. There were a lot of changes to this division. Divisions 100, 700 and 800 should be out to the contractors by the end of this month for review. The deadline was January 2024. This will not be met. The anticipation is to have the specification book out the door by November which is too close for January 2024. SCDOT is now shooting for March 2024. Once the book is produced, there will more than likely be a page to purchase the books as needed.

**III. New Business**

**A. Safety Topic (SCDOT)**

Kenny Eargle spoke about inspectors on projects. A contractor from another state contacted Mr. Eargle again about the action of inspectors on projects. Workers are walking between equipment that is in operation, pulling out into traffic without approval from flaggers, parking in the way of equipment or too close when in operation, sticking thermometers in truck without telling anyone and while trucks are still moving, bending down and checking concrete while the water truck is still pushing and the site spreader operator not realizing they are there, sampling from the site spreader without informing the operator, non-DOT vehicles driving into the work zone to talk to the inspectors. These are blind spots. The work zone is

dangerous, and safety is necessary. United Infrastructure Group lost an employee in Ashville. They believe he may have had on noise cancelling ear buds that contributed to this tragedy. They ran a test to see if the back up alarms for equipment can be heard with these on. It cannot. The contractors were told to bring any safety concerns to our employees and the resident construction engineer as needed.

**B. Consultant Cost Per District (Discussion)**

The only thing SCDOT was able to get was escalations on CE&I contracts. CE&I costs do not have major spikes (like 3-4%). The rest of this was tabled for a later date.

**C. Railroad Meeting Report**

There is increased scrutiny on submittals and construction practices. The railroad has not been happy with some of their inspectors of records lately. STB was asked to investigate the problem by the railroad. This meeting was an effort to get some information on how the industry and SCDOT can help move things forward more smoothly.

**D. CMRB**

SCDOT has been working closely with SCAPA on cement issues. There was an expectation for this to get better in the spring of 2023 but that was not the case. The issues seem to be resolved as of now. There were only two concerns on the industry side. The first is that the supply issue seems to be resolved right now but could it take another downturn. The second is that some of the contractors ramped down crew due to the supply issues. They will need to ramp them back up now that the issue is resolved. Some contractors are still seeing concrete for structure issues, but these appear to be more of a driver related issue than production.

**E. Open Discussion**

The tri-colored bat is expected to go on the endangered list September 15<sup>th</sup>. The action required by Fish and Wildlife Department are set for November 15<sup>th</sup>. SCDOT is working with Fish and Wildlife to get the plan in place for restrictions.

Contractors asked about Buy America information. Clarification has recently been put out. On SCDOT's end, nothing has really changed. The big thing is the waiver for the manufactured products.

A new Davis-Bacon update was released recently. That will be effective with the October letting. More than likely it will be an updated 1273 form. Clay is not expecting new wage determination forms.

Oklahoma just adopted legislation that would require one hour work zone training for people getting new driver's licenses. Leslie suggested trying to get this in place in South Carolina as well.

The contractors suggested adding side scan sonar for projects where you are crossing a river to identify the subsurface obstructions during the design and development process.

The contractors asked about the rotation for the Deputy Secretary. The rotation for Deputy Secretary will be one month at a time. Each one will be announced as they come up. It will continue until the Secretary doesn't need to anymore. However, the Secretary sees it going into the spring. Contractors were asked to go through Robbie first.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Road Subcommittee** - Did not meet
  
- B. **Bridge Subcommittee** - Discussed concrete issues, certain sizes of rebar hoops for drill shafts are getting hard to acquire, bats, and concern about lack of new bridge projects in the bid build arena.
  
- C. **Alternative Delivery Subcommittee** - Discussed new RQ language and SOQ evaluation scores, still need examples of progressive design build and CNGC, erosion control items, SCDOT to continue to review internal changes to assist in utility relocations, MOT oversight, storm inspection reports lagging, schedule review by consultants.
  
- D. **Supplier Subcommittee** – Did not meet

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