

Project Development Subcommittee Meeting

February 27, 2008

Minutes

Attendees:

Clarke DeHart, C. R. Jackson
Jason Edmonds, Ashmore Brothers, Inc.
Benji Vinson, US Group, Inc.
Brett Murray, Rea Contracting, LLC
Kevin Ulmer, SCDOT
Rob Bedenbaugh, SCDOT
Jamie Kendall, SCDOT
Ben McKinney, SCDOT
Robert Ryggs, SCDOT
Mark Lester, SCDOT
Chris Lacy, SCDOT
Sammy Hendrix, Carolinas AGC

The meeting was called to order by Mark Lester with introductions.

Old Business

Delay in posting of results on Bid Express

The delay referenced is between the 2:00 p.m. letting time and when the first bid is posted to bidx .

Mark Lester talked to the Construction office. The process is to download the bids, then they are posted back bid by bid by call number.

It was also noted that if there are a lot of bidders on the projects, which there has been lately, it can take some time for all the bids to print out and that could delay starting to post the results back to bidx.

Plan developments with Utility Companies

This item is from the minutes of the October meeting. Any suggestions to expedite?

Kevin Ulmer – It is never an urgency with Utilities. Even with a priority list there are projects that will be stopped for some reason.

Sammy Hendrix – With the new system a project maintains its priority position even if held up for any reason. Therefore, when it is put back on the list, it is at the same priority position.

Mark Lester – The Utility companies should feel more comfortable with the status of the projects. The letting list is built from the priority list. When a project makes the tentative letting list it is a go.

Kevin – Until DOT can show they stick to a list, the utilities will not trust the list. DOT has a better system now and they have to prove this to the utilities.

In the upstate they have tried withholding encroachment permits, but really have no recourse. Many are getting out of the contractors way with early relocations. It is generally the same utility company that will not do this. AT&T has improved greatly. Often it is simply communicating and working together between DOT, contractor and the utility company.

Sammy – Another problem for contractors is that when the sign is put up for a project, they are liable even though there can be considerable down time waiting for the utilities. Bond companies do not like this situation.

Mark – Utilities should know about Act 114 which is the DOT restructuring and ranking of projects.

New Business

Update on Projects for Letting list (Bridges and Resurfacing)

The tentative letting list is back on the DOT web site. Projects are identified but all may not have dates just yet.

The problem contractors have is a large percentage of their work force is laid off due to no work. They have to plan ahead to bring these people back to work.

Jason Edmonds - A good tentative list helps us in this planning.

Mark – We have been told that if a date is assigned, we have to make that date.

Sammy – Over 800 contractor employees have been laid off state wide. Contractors have to phase up to be ready when there is work and need to plan more than a month ahead. There is also an issue of having the product available. An example are aggregates who have reduced their product due to lack of demand.

Clark DeHart –Another example is DBE's. Several that we use have gone out of business because of no work. This will affect us meeting the DBE goals. If we suddenly have projects to bid on, but no DBE's available, there will be a problem locating DBE's to do the work.

Mark – Most everything is out through the September letting list. These projects were already underway. There is not a lot of work in the upstate and not sure about resurfacing work. Act 114 has slowed the process. What time frame would the contractor like to see?

Response - Six months to a year would really help.

Mark – we will work on an update to the letting list and send to Sammy to distribute.

Brett Murray – Can we get a list that shows jobs anticipated but are not on the tentative list? Then the contractors know other possibilities for bidding that may be added to the list later.

Mark – That is on the web site for widening, grading and interchanges. The problem is we don't have the money yet for bridges and resurfacing.

At this time interstate rehab work is resurfacing and widening. This is on the web site by category. STIP shows line item projects, not bridges. Earmark projects are also shown. There will be three widening jobs for Highway 278 in Bluffton that are not on the list yet.

There will be resurfacing work that is not part of the DOT letting. Contractors need to look for this work. There will be some in Horry County. Special county taxes are providing the funds for some of this work. Look at the CAGC web site for some of these jobs that may be listed.

On the preconstruction side, DOT has two years of projects but need to be working at least five years ahead.

Other Business

Jamie Kendall – There is a new standard drawings book. All drawings are sealed by an engineer. You will need to get a new book and then DOT will start updates next year. It is effective with the May 2008 letting. It is two sided and on a heavier grade paper and available now. There is a memo included noting changes. Cost is \$100 with cover, \$75 for just pages.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.