

MINUTES OF DOT-AGC BRIDGE DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

(Approved: October 13, 2010)

The DOT-AGC Joint Bridge Design Subcommittee met on August 11th, 2010. Those in attendance were:

Berry Jenkins	Manager of Highway Heavy Division, Carolinas Branch AGC (Co-Chairman)
Mike Robinson	State Bridge Construction Engineer
Randall Gattis	Sanford Contractors, Inc.
Chris Britton	Taylor & Murphy Construction Co.
Larry Cagle	Thompson-Arthur Div., APAC-Atlantic, Inc.
Greg Cook	Mountain Creek Contractors, Inc.
Brian Hanks	Structure Design Project Engineer
Paul Lambert	Structure Design Project Engineer
Scott Hidden	Support Services Supervisor – Geotech. Eng. Unit
Gichuru Muchane	Structure Design Engineer
Steve Walton	Metals Engineer – Materials & Tests Unit
David Greene	Structural Member Engineer – Materials & Tests Unit

The following items were discussed during the review of the April 14th, 2010 minutes:

1. *Cored Slab Standard Plans*

Mr. Hanks reported that development of cored slab standard design plans (superstructure and substructure) was now in the final stages. The Division offices have been informed about the plans and they have been successfully used on several projects. Mr. Hanks noted that a few private engineering firms on design-build teams have expressed concerns regarding sealing plans without involvement in design. The Department understands that PEFs will need to analyze standard designs prior to sealing the plans, but that this should result in engineering time savings. Furthermore, the design calculations will be made available for their review.

2. *Maintenance of Effort (MoE) Projects*

Mr. Robinson informed the Committee that Resident Engineers have been encouraged to expedite payments for Maintenance of Effort projects to ensure the State meets the deadline for ARRA spending requirements.

3. *Evazote Joint Seals*

Mr. Robinson reported that the Department has inquired about the types of evazote joint seals used on bridges in other States. He added that the Department will revise the special provision for Evazote Joint Seals to ensure that Contractors install seals made from quality material.

Contractors stated that at the end of the joint warranty period they should not be held responsible for damage to joints that results from a lack of maintenance.

The minutes of the April 14th, 2010 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. *Detail at Ends of Box Beams and Cored Slabs*

Mr. Hanks stated that some Contractors have requested the Department eliminate the joint at the approach slab on box beam and cored slab bridges, and allow pouring the approach slab against the end of the units. He noted that eliminating the joints was possible on cored slab bridges, but the Bridge Management Unit has expressed concerns with removal of damaged units. However, on box beam bridges the short backwall does not allow eliminating the joint. Mr. Hanks also noted that this

topic was discussed during the recent Structure Workshop meeting, and there was consensus to eliminate the joint on cored slab bridges.

Contractors noted that replacing cored slab units is a very rare occurrence. Mr. Robinson stated that he would solicit ideas for eliminating the end bent joint on box beam bridges from the Area Bridge Construction Engineers and report back to the committee.

4. *Metallized Pile Restrikes*

Contractors expressed concerns with the lack of availability of sub-contractors who are qualified to perform field repairs on metallized piles.

Mr. Walton shared contact information on companies that are qualified for metallization. After some discussion it was agreed that metallized piles are rarely used and the situation that prompted this agenda item was confined to one project and is not a broad issue. Mr. Robinson stated that the Construction Unit would address this issue for the affected project.

5. *Floating Turbidity Curtains*

Mr. Robinson stated that there have been some issues regarding payment for turbidity curtains. He explained that floating turbidity curtains are paid for on a square yard basis, but the *Standard Specifications* do not address payment for reuse of the curtain. Mr. Robinson requested feedback on ways to address payment for reusing turbidity curtains.

Suggestions from the Contractors included:

- Paying for the maximum quantity of curtain in use at any time, with reuse incidental to payment already made,
- Leaving the current pay item as is and adding a pay item for relocating the turbidity curtain.

Contractors also suggested showing where the turbidity curtain is required on the plans, and it was pointed out that the installed curtain should extend to the bottom of the stream.

Mr. Robinson stated that he would report back to the committee.

6. *State Funded POC's – H.B. Rowe Case*

Mr. Jenkins provided a brief background and summary of the recent ruling on the H.B. Rowe case. Essentially, the ruling stated that women and non-African American minorities are not disadvantaged groups for the purpose of project DBE goals for State funded projects. He noted that the ruling will have an immediate effect on State funded projects, and the Department has suspended State funded project lettings until the State Attorneys determine a course of action.

7. *Other*

i. AGC Convention

Contractors expressed some concerns with work items that require prequalification. Specifically they questioned the need to be prequalified to construct foundations for sign structures such as spread footings and shallow drilled shafts.

Mr. Hidden responded by stating that the work codes had been revised and now require prequalification only for drilled pier foundations.

ii. Overruns

Contractors stated that Resident Engineers (REs) are disallowing quantity overruns because they reflect negatively on their performance dashboard appraisals (PDAs). Mr. Robinson acknowledged that overruns are one of the performance metrics for REs, and he added that the Department does not intend to sacrifice the integrity of a project by disallowing overruns.

iii. Bridge Warranties

Contractors stated there needs to be more uniformity in the one year bridge warranty reviews. After some discussion, Mr. Jenkins suggested that this topic be discussed at the next AGC-DOT Joint Winter Conference, which was recently reinstated.

iv. Division Let Projects

Contractors stated that they looked forward to working with the Divisions on Division let projects. However, they noted that the Divisions do not have much experience in developing plans. They suggested the Department work closely with the Division Bridge Managers in preparing for project lettings. In addition, the Contractors suggested the Division implement the following:

- Pre-bid review of plans and require attendance to pre-bid meetings,
- Have utilities moved prior to awarding the project on 90 – 120 day bridge replacements,
- Divisions meet with Contractors that routinely work in their respective areas.

Mr. Robinson stated that the Raleigh offices will be working with the Division offices, but also acknowledged that Divisions have autonomy over Division let projects.

8. *Next Meeting*

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010 in the Structure Design Conference Room.