

## MINUTES OF AGC-DOT JOINT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

(Approved: June 13, 2018)

The AGC-DOT Joint Bridge Subcommittee met on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Those in attendance were:

Brian Hanks	State Structures Engineer (Co-Chairman)
Berry Jenkins	Carolinas AGC – Highway Division Director (Co-Chairman)
Ron Hancock	Deputy Chief Engineer
Gichuru Muchane	Assistant State Structures Engineer
Jay Boyd	Balfour Betty Infrastructure, Inc.
Lee Bradley	Blythe Construction, Inc.
Chris Britton	Buckeye Bridge
Adam Holcomb	Dane Construction, Inc.
Aaron Bogner	Dragados USA
Michael Zacko	Flatiron Construction Corporation
Tom Meador	Lane Construction Corporation
Lee Powers	Lee Construction Company
Erick Frazier	S. T. Wooten Corporation
Randall Gattis	Sanford Contractors, Inc.
Ben Bishop	Sloan Construction
Larry Cagle	Thompson-Arthur Div., APAC-Atlantic, Inc.
Kevin Knuettel	Zachry Construction Corporation
Cameron Cochran	Construction Unit – Regional Bridge Construction Engineer
Aaron Earwood	Construction Unit – Regional Bridge Construction Engineer
Scott Hidden	Geotechnical Unit – Support Services Supervisor
Tom Santee	Geotechnical Unit – Regional Operations Engineer
Cabell Garbee	Materials & Tests Unit – Field Operations Engineer
Jason Poppe	Materials & Tests Unit – Concrete Products Engineer
James Bolden	Structures Management Unit – Project Engineer
Trey Carroll	Structures Management Unit – Team Leader

During the review of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes, the following item was discussed:

1. Sample Bars

Mr. Carroll provided an update on providing replacements for sample bars. Structures Management Unit proposed placing a replacement bar length chart in the structure plans. The proposed revisions were distributed to Materials and Tests Unit and reinforcing steel suppliers for comment.

The minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. Regional Emergency Response Design-Build Contracts

Mr. Hancock discussed proposed legislation that would allow the Department to respond to emergency situations by waiving bidding requirements. Mr. Hancock solicited feedback on

implementation of the bill, such as on-call contracts for pre-approved teams or pre-teaming Contractors with design firms similar to a Design-Build arrangement.

Contractors expressed concerns with being teamed up with a specific design firm because emergency situations are unpredictable and if their partnered design firm is too busy with other work the Contractor would be unable to participate. Contractors recommended the Department contract directly with the Contractor and allow the Contractor to select the design firm.

**Action Item:**

**None**

2. Reinforcing Steel Prices & Availability

Mr. Hancock inquired if steel prices were increasing and whether availability was becoming a concern. Contractor responses indicated that current prices and availability are stable, but steel suppliers are indicating a potential change in the future due to uncertainty with tariffs. Mr. Hancock requested Contractors keep the Department and AGC informed of changes in steel prices and availability.

**Action Item:**

**None**

3. Express Design-Build Project Packages

Mr. Hancock noted the Department is working to provide improved notice of Express Design-Build project packages. The Divisions are working to develop a 12 month let list to keep Contractors more informed of upcoming project packages. Contractors recommended 4 to 6 projects of similar bridge types in the same geographical region.

**Action Item:**

**None**

4. AGC Updates

Mr. Jenkins stated the construction industry continues to face labor shortages and challenges with attracting new talent. He informed the subcommittee that AGC is developing a digital marketing and media campaign to promote the construction industry and construction related careers. The campaign will focus on promoting vocation courses to both high school students and their parents.

**Action Item:**

**None**

5. Structure Bulletins

Mr. Cochran stated that the monthly Structure Bulletin newsletters are now available on the Construction Unit's [webpage](#). Mr. Earwood encouraged Contractors to submit bulletin topics on construction issues that come up frequently or guidance that needs to be highlighted.

**Action Item:**  
**None**

6. CEI Relationships

Mr. Jenkins asked Contractors if relationships with CEI firms had improved as a result of the Winter Conference and other training opportunities. Contractors responded that relationships have improved and CEI firms are understanding the importance of working together for successful project delivery.

**Action Item:**  
**None**

7. Fly Ash Availability

Mr. Cagle stated he received a letter from a fly ash supplier stating the potential for fly ash shortage. Mr. Cagle stated he had not experienced any availability issues, but was bringing the letter to the attention of the subcommittee. Other Contractors stated they had received similar letters, but they too had not experienced fly ash availability issues. Mr. Hanks requested that Contractors continue to keep the Department informed on the issue.

**Action Item:**  
**None**

8. Stirrups in Cored Slabs & Box Beams with Concrete Overlays

Mr. Earwood discussed Virginia DOT's use of stirrups projecting out of cored slab and box beam units with a concrete overlay and inquired if the Department should consider using a similar detail. Overall consensus of the subcommittee was the stirrups would be a benefit to the performance of the concrete overlay. Mr. Hancock noted that projecting the stirrups out of the units could make top-down construction more challenging.

Discussion continued among the subcommittee members concerning how the stirrups could be detailed and if every unit would have stirrups projecting out. Mr. Earwood recommended detailing consistent projection heights and continue to have bar supports for the overlay reinforcing mat. Mr. Gattis asked if the orientation of the bars projecting from the units was a concern. Mr. Hanks stated the bars could be detailed to project transversely or longitudinally from the unit.

**Action Item:**  
**Structures Management Unit will develop details for both transverse and longitudinal reinforcing bars projecting from the units and distribute the details to the subcommittee for comments.**

9. Barrier Rail Bars in Cored Slabs & Box Beams on Superelevations

Mr. Earwood discussed a recent cored slab bridge project in which the Contractor had to manually bend the barrier rail bars projecting from the cored slab units into proper orientation for adequate concrete cover due to a 3% superelevation. Mr. Earwood asked Contractors if they routinely had to make barrier rail bar adjustments for superelevated cored slab and box beam bridges. Contractors responded by stating they do not and indicated the discussed project was an isolated situation.

**Action Item:**  
**None**

*10. Price Adjustments for 100% Underruns of Minor Contract Items*

Mr. Frazier discussed concerns with significant underruns for minor contract pay item quantities and noted Contractors do not have the ability to recoup losses. Mr. Frazier noted subcontractors have fixed costs and the Department does have provisions for underruns for major contract items, but some Divisions do not identify any items as major. Mr. Hanks and Mr. Earwood stated that internally the Department will work to resolve the issue.

**Action Item:**  
**Construction and Structures Management Units will communicate with Central, Divisions, and consulting firms the importance of accurate quantities and identify major pay items.**

*Next Meeting*

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Structures Management Conference Room C.