

**MINUTES OF AGC-DOT JOINT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
(Approved: October 14, 2020)

The AGC-DOT Joint Bridge Subcommittee met remotely via GoToMeeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Those in attendance were:

Brian Hanks	State Structures Engineer (Co-Chairman)
Victor Barbour	Carolinas AGC – Highway Division Director (Co-Chairman)
Boyd Tharrington	State Construction Engineer
John Pilipchuk	State Geotechnical Engineer
Todd Whittington	State Materials Engineer
Brian Skeens	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Gichuru Muchane	Assistant State Structures Engineer
Brian Hunter	State Laboratory Operations Manager
Jay Boyd	Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.
Lee Bradley	Blythe Construction, Inc.
Chris Britton	Buckeye Bridge, LLC
Kerry Kennedy	Conti Enterprises, Inc.
Adam Holcomb	Dane Construction, Inc.
Chas Hummel	Flatiron Construction Corporation
Tom Meador	Lane Construction Company
Erick Frazier	S. T. Wooten Corporation
Chris Brown	Sanford Contractors, Inc.
Brian Weathersby	Sloan Construction Company
Andy Jenkins	Vecellio & Grogan, Inc.
Damien Hollifield	Young & McQueen Grading Company
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 – Eastern Regional Operations Engineer
Randy Porter	Materials & Tests Unit – Metals Products Engineer
James Bolden	Structures Management Unit – Project Engineer
Trey Carroll	Structures Management Unit – Project Engineer
Nicholas Pierce	Structures Management Unit – Team Leader

During the review of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes, the following items were discussed:

*1. Project Lettings*

Mr. Barbour requested a status update of the BUILD grant projects. Mr. Hanks noted the Department anticipates only letting BUILD grant projects that are federally funded until the Department's cash balance recovers. Per NCDOT's agreement with USDOT, one project must be let before September 2020.

**Action Item:**

**Structures Management will provide a list of federally funded BUILD grant projects to AGC.**

2. Impervious Dikes for Division Projects

Mr. Earwood noted that the Construction Unit is continuing to discuss the topic.

The minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. Concrete Slump

Mr. Earwood shared a proposed update to the Standard Specifications increasing the permitted concrete slump when using a high-range water reducing admixture from 3½” to a maximum of 6” to improve workability and consolidation. He noted that increased slump should not be placed on decks with high superelevations or steep grades. Mr. Earwood asked that Contractors review the proposal and provide Construction and Materials & Tests with comments.

**Action Item:**

**None**

2. Railroad Flagging

Mr. Earwood shared that CSX railroad requested input from Contractors for methods to minimize flagging on projects because of personnel shortages. Contractors discussed past experiences and noted that flagging requirements can vary between local railroad offices. Mr. Barbour recommended a meeting with AGC, CSX, and Construction Unit to discuss solutions.

**Action Item:**

**Construction will discuss coordinating a meeting with AGC and CSX to discuss minimizing flagging.**

3. Prestressed Concrete Piles

Mr. Earwood discussed challenges with the current specification for paying for prestressed concrete piles (PCP) including Contractors not being paid for pile cutoffs. He shared that the Department is reviewing the PCP pay item and how to reduce the associated risk for both the Department and Contractors. Mr. Santee summarized that for shorter bridges the Department could provide estimated pile order lengths using PDA testing and for longer bridges the Department could use test piles to determine pile lengths. The Department would be responsible for specifying pile lengths and Contractors would be paid for the entire pile length including cutoffs. Mr. Earwood noted that utilizing test piles would require additional lead time and Contractors responded that they currently use test piles when necessary to reduce their risk.

**Action Item:**

**Construction and Geotechnical Units will continue discussing internally and develop a draft provision to share with the group.**

4. Integral End Bent Wingwalls

Mr. Earwood started a general discussion about construction issues with long integral end bent wingwalls and the policy of not permitting braced wingwall piles. He stated that during previous conversations Contractors shared their preference for not tapering wingwalls but noted that tapered wings are being utilized on recent design-build projects. He requested the group provide feedback for addressing long integral end bent wingwalls and to notify Construction if performance issues occur on projects.

**Action Item:**

**Contractors will provide suggestions for addressing long integral end bent wingwalls.**

5. Piles at MSE Walls

Mr. Frazier inquired about using sonotubes as a substitute to steel pile sleeves around H-piles for MSE wall construction. He discussed safety and handling concerns with steel pile sleeves. Mr. Cochran stated that sonotubes are not adequate to resist pressures during MSE wall construction and noted durability concerns.

A general discussion followed about MSE wall construction sequence when using pile sleeves.

**Action Item:**

**None**

6. State Construction Engineer

Mr. Hanks introduced Mr. Tharrington as the new State Construction Engineer.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Post Meeting Note

Due to a limited agenda the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.