

MINUTES OF AGC-DOT JOINT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

(Approved: February 10, 2021)

The AGC-DOT Joint Bridge Subcommittee met remotely via Microsoft Teams on December 9th, 2020. Those in attendance were:

Brian Hanks	State Structures Engineer (Co-Chairman)
Victor Barbour	Carolinas AGC – Highway Division Director (Co-Chairman)
John Pilipchuk	State Geotechnical Engineer
Todd Whittington	State Materials Engineer
Wiley Jones	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Brian Skeens	Assistant State Construction Engineer
David Hering	Assistant State Geotechnical Engineer
Brian Hunter	State Laboratory Operations Manager
Gichuru Muchane	Assistant State Structures Engineer
Lee Bradley	Blythe Construction, Inc.
Kerry Kennedy	Conti Enterprises, Inc.
Patrick Buckley	Crowder Construction Company
Adam Holcomb	Dane Construction, Inc
Chas Hummel	Flatiron Construction Corporation
David Yates	Fred Smith Company
Tom Meador	Lane Construction Company
Mark Newman	NHM Constructors, LLC
Erick Frazier	S. T. Wooten Corporation
Chris Brown	Sanford Contractors, Inc.
Brian Weathersby	Sloan Construction Company
Larry Cagle	Thompson-Arthur Div., APAC-Atlantic, Inc.
Damien Hollifield	Young & McQueen Grading Company
Cameron Cochran	Construction Unit – Regional Bridge Construction Engineer
Aaron Earwood	Construction Unit – Regional Bridge Construction Engineer
Jeff Renn	State Proposals and Specifications Engineer
Scott Hidden	Geotechnical Unit – Support Services Supervisor
Tom Santee	Geotechnical Unit – Eastern Regional Operations Engineer
Cabell Garbee	Materials & Tests Unit – Manufactured Products Engineer
James Bolden	Structures Management Unit – Project Engineer
Trey Carroll	Structures Management Unit – Project Engineer
Nicholas Pierce	Structures Management Unit – Team Leader
Tim Sherrill	Structures Management Unit – Staff Engineer

During the review of the October 14th, 2020 meeting minutes, the following items were discussed:

1. Railroad Flagging

Construction Unit and members of AGC met with CSX railroad. Mr. Earwood shared that there is a shortage of flaggers and potential solutions include using the same flagger for

projects in relatively close proximity or when constructing scaffolding over tracks for preservation projects. CSX has consolidated points of contacts for scheduling flaggers.

2. End Bent Concrete Collars

Mr. Hanks requested Contractors submit suggestions for ways to minimize manual labor required to construct concrete collars but still achieve the same results of protecting the tops of steel piles from corrosion, especially if erosion at the end bent occurs.

3. Prestressed Concrete Piles

No update, Geotechnical Units is revising the prestressed concrete piles specifications and once completed will share the proposed changes with the Subcommittee.

The minutes of the October 14th, 2020 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. Bridge Preservation Project List

Mr. Barbour inquired if the preservation project list is up to date. Mr. Hanks shared the project list on the SMU website and noted that it has been reprioritized and updated. He noted the list does not fluctuate much but may need quarterly updates as the Department would like to accelerate some projects. Mr. Hanks also provided an overview of current budget levels.

Action Item:

None

2. Specialty Items for Bridge Preservation Projects

Mr. Newman stated that certain bridge preservation work requires specialized materials, equipment, and labor (certified personnel) that most prime contractors do not have, and therefore must be subcontracted. These bid items are not considered specialty items in the contract. He shared one example being PPC overlays and he discussed the challenges with meeting the standard contract requirement that the prime performs a minimum percentage of the work. Painting and shotcrete work also present the same issue. He inquired if the Department would consider specifying such items as specialty work or reducing the amount of work that is required to be performed by the prime for preservation projects. Mr. Earwood agreed to lead an internal workgroup to review preservation pay items for consideration as specialty items and will discuss findings with the State Proposals and Specifications Engineer, Mr. Renn.

Action Item:

Mr. Earwood will coordinate a meeting with Mr. Cochran, Mr. Sherrill, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Garbee to discuss specialty items for bridge preservation projects.

3. Link Slabs

Mr. Hummel inquired about the increased use of link slabs in lieu of continuous for live load diaphragms. Mr. Hanks noted the Department is expanding the use of link slabs with longer spans and Mr. Carroll gave a brief overview of the policy that is being developed.

Mr. Frazier asked if there are any concerns with using link slabs under heavy traffic. Mr. Carroll stated that a review of several existing link slabs under heavy traffic showed no performance issues.

Action Item:
None

4. Other

Mr. Cochran shared the Construction Unit is revising the Construction Manual. He stated the Structures section will be published soon and noted that field erection of structural steel will have significant revisions. He briefly discussed proposed revisions for structural steel bolted field connections and splices relating to the use of fit-up bolts and drift pins. He noted the revisions are intended to clarify what is expected and explain the importance.

A general discussion followed about proper tensioning procedures and when to remove drift pins. Mr. Cochran also shared the tensioning procedure outlined in the AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Erection Guide Specification.

Action Item:
Mr. Carroll will forward a draft of the revisions to AGC for comment.

Mr. Hanks reminded Contractors that the Department is anticipating accelerating some bridge projects and to monitor the Central and Division Let Lists.

Action Item:
None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2021.