

MINUTES OF AGC-DOT JOINT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

(Approved: April 14, 2021)

The AGC-DOT Joint Bridge Subcommittee met remotely via Microsoft Teams on February 10th, 2021. 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
Todd Whittington	State Materials Engineer
Wiley Jones	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Brian Skeens	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Brian Hunter	State Laboratory Operations Manager
Gichuru Muchane	Assistant State Structures Engineer
Jay Boyd	Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.
Lee Bradley	Blythe Construction, Inc.
Chris Britton	Buckeye Bridge, LLC
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
Chris Powers	Lee 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
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
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 December 9th, 2020 meeting minutes, the following items were discussed:

1. Specialty Items for Bridge Preservation Projects

Mr. Earwood shared that an internal workgroup met and reviewed contract specialty items for bridge preservation projects. The group determined that PPC overlay will be considered a specialty item and that painting will be considered a specialty item on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Jones noted that scope of work will dictate when painting is a specialty item. Mr. Barbour inquired about reducing the amount of work that is required to be performed by the prime. Mr. Earwood stated that the group would continue discussions and that he would review the workgroup's meeting minutes with Mr. Jeff Renn.

Action Item:

Mr. Earwood will share and discuss workgroup's recommendations with the State Proposals and Specifications Engineer, Mr. Jeff Renn.

2. Link Slabs

Mr. Hanks noted that SMU's link slab policy is under final review prior to release.

The minutes of the December 9th, 2020 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. Lettings Update

Mr. Barbour inquired if there will be an increase in project lettings due to the improved cash balance. Mr. Hanks directed Contractors to the let list on the SMU website and remarked that lettings will begin to increase in March, but the Department will continue monitoring the cash balance. Mr. Hanks shared that the Bridge Program may receive additional funding from federal relief funds.

Action Item:

None

2. Foundation Summary Table

Mr. Hidden shared a draft of the Geotechnical Foundation Summary Table plan sheets which were distributed to Contractors prior to the meeting. He noted the summary tables would replace many of the standard geotechnical notes and that other states communicate their foundation information with similar tables. He also noted the tables include information for historical record keeping and future reference and may not be used for foundation installation/construction. Mr. Hidden requested comments from Contractors on the proposed change from notes to tabular format. Contractors responded positively and suggested minor edits.

Mr. Hanks asked Contractors if information typically found on individual substructure plan sheets could be removed if it is included in the summary tables to eliminate duplicating information. Mr. Boyd and Mr. Frazier agreed that information should be shown in one location. Mr. Hanks asked if the summary tables would be necessary for smaller bridges to which Mr. Boyd, Mr. Buckley, and Mr. Weathersby recommended providing the tables for all bridges for consistency.

Action Item:

Mr. Hidden will revise the summary tables per comments received and distribute updated tables to subcommittee members for review.

3. Revisions to Standard Specifications – Piles

Mr. Hidden shared a draft of proposed revisions to the Standard Specifications that will include the Department providing pile order lengths. This topic was first introduced in the [June 2020](#) meeting. Mr. Hidden noted that currently Contractors are only paid for installed length of pile, which can promote overdriving concrete piles. Mr. Hidden reminded the group that payment for steel piles would not change. Mr. Hidden requested comments from Contractors. Mr. Frazier suggested modifying specification language to address and clarify pile seating.

Action Item:

Mr. Hidden and Mr. Santee will discuss language addressing pile seating.

Mr. Hidden will revise the provision per comments received and distribute updated provision to subcommittee members for review.

4. Approach Fills

Mr. Cochran discussed approach slab settlement issues and shared that the Department is investigating both short-term and long-term solutions. He noted that revisions to approach fill details in 2018 eliminated multiple layers of geotextile and has impacted the Department's ability to jack approach slabs that have settled. To address the jacking issue the Department will require Contractors add a single layer of geotextile fabric one foot below the approach slab.

Mr. Cochran and Mr. Earwood also discussed using appropriately sized compaction equipment and increasing compaction tests. Mr. Cochran noted previously bridge approaches were overbuilt to induce settlement and then excavated out before bridge approach fills were constructed. He discussed the possibility of returning to this method and the need for additional compaction testing.

Mr. Earwood noted of an upcoming memo addressing these issues and that Construction wanted the subcommittee members to be aware.

Action Item:

None

5. Impervious Dikes

Mr. Cochran inquired about recent changes to impervious dike guidance and if the changes were being shown on plans. Mr. Brown noted consistency for Central lettings. Mr. Earwood noted that impervious dikes might not be shown if causeways can be installed, or work can be performed without de-watering areas. Mr. Holcomb recommended reviewing the topic at a later date once more projects with the new guidance are under construction.

Action Item:

Impervious Dike topic will be reviewed at an upcoming subcommittee meeting.

6. Sloped Bottom of Wing Details

Mr. Cochran noted that a previous meeting's action item was for Contractors to provide comments for addressing long integral end bent wingwalls, but no comments have been received. Mr. Earwood shared photos of a sloped wingwall with cracking defects because the sloped wingwalls were not adequately supported.

Action Item:

Structures Management and Construction will discuss internally.

7. Longitudinal Joints for Staged Construction

Mr. Earwood discussed challenges with interference of stirrups projecting out of the top flange and the longitudinal construction joint located at the centerline of modified bulb-tee girders when the joint is required for staged construction. He suggested relocating the joint from the centerline of girder to over the flange and maintaining a specified clearance between the stirrup horizontal leg. Mr. Hanks noted that stirrup horizontal legs are provided due to safety concerns. Mr. Earwood inquired, and Contractors agreed a plan note allowing clipping of the horizontal leg would be beneficial.

Action Item:

Mr. Carroll and Mr. Earwood will discuss adding a plan note and modifying the SMU Design Manual.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 2021.