

MINUTES OF AGC-DOT JOINT BRIDGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

(Approved: June 9, 2021)

The AGC-DOT Joint Bridge Subcommittee met remotely via Microsoft Teams on April 14th, 2021. Those in attendance were:

Brian Hanks	State Structures Engineer (Co-Chairman)
Victor Barbour	Carolinas AGC – Highway Division Director (Co-Chairman)
Todd Whittington	State Materials Engineer
Wiley Jones	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Brian Skeens	Assistant State Construction Engineer
Gichuru Muchane	Assistant State Structures Engineer
Jay Boyd	Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.
Chris Britton	Buckeye Bridge, LLC
Patrick Buckley	Crowder Construction Company
Adam Holcomb	Dane Construction, Inc
Jake Linn	Dellinger, Inc.
Chas Hummel	Flatiron Construction Corporation
David Yates	Fred Smith Company
Mark Newman	NHM Constructors, LLC
Erick Frazier	S. T. Wooten Corporation
Chris Brown	Sanford Contractors, Inc.
Brian Weathersby	Sloan Construction Company
Don Tutterow	Thalle Construction Company
Darren Colby	Zachry Construction Corporation
Cameron Cochran	Assistant Division 14 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 February 10th, 2021 meeting minutes, the following items were discussed:

1. Specialty Items for Bridge Preservation Projects

Mr. Earwood shared that he discussed the topic with Mr. Jeff Renn and it was decided that the project scope and amount of work will dictate when PPC overlay and painting will be considered specialty items.

2. Sloped Bottom of Wing Details

SMU will investigate returning to detailing the integral diaphragm full length of the end bent cap in lieu of detailing sloped bottom of wings when longer wings are required.

3. Approach Fills

Mr. Earwood asked if Contractors had any concerns with the recent Construction memo requiring the use of larger compaction equipment and adding a layer of geotextile below the approach slab. Contractors noted no issues.

4. Longitudinal Joints for Staged Construction

SMU will update the Design Manual with a note to allow cutting the horizontal leg of stirrups when necessary to properly place a longitudinal joint over the top flange for staged construction. Mr. Earwood will include this topic in an upcoming Structure Bulletin.

The minutes of the February 10th, 2021 meeting were approved.

The following items of new business were discussed:

1. Lettings Update

Mr. Barbour noted that the State received \$238 million in Covid Relief funds and will be using some of those funds to advance projects from fiscal year (FY) '22 to (FY) '21, and he noted that a list of projects was sent to AGC members. Mr. Hanks added that the Bridge Program is utilizing Covid Relief funds to accelerate projects and anticipates advancing \$100 million in projects before the end of the Federal fiscal year but will need to monitor cash flow.

Action Item:

None

2. SMU Asset Management Manual

Mr. Barbour inquired about the SMU Asset Management Manual that is in development and if AGC Bridge subcommittee members would have an opportunity to provide comments. Mr. Carroll shared an outline of the manual and Mr. Pierce noted that the manual is intended to provide design engineers guidance on selecting preservation and rehabilitation treatments based upon structure condition.

Action Item:

SMU will share Asset Management Manual construction related sections with subcommittee members for comments.

3. Foundation Summary Table

Mr. Hidden shared a final draft of the Geotechnical Foundation Summary Table plan sheets and pile provision relating to pile order lengths, which had been distributed to Contractors prior to the meeting. He noted the pile provision addresses previous Contractor comments regarding pausing during initial driving operations. Mr. Boyd asked if pile/pier dimensions would be shown in the tables and if the tables would address pile tips. Mr. Hidden responded that pile/pier dimensions would be shown on the substructure plan sheets and that pile tips are not included in the summary tables. Mr. Boyd asked about pile restrike criteria and waiting periods. Mr. Earwood noted that the Department is specifying pile order lengths and the specifications address waiting periods.

Mr. Barbour asked about the timeline for implementation of the tables and provision. Mr. Hidden noted that Geotechnical and Structures Management Units will discuss the let date to implement the changes. Mr. Hanks asked about how the Department would provide final pile order lengths since estimated lengths are shown the Foundation Summary Tables. Mr. Hidden and Mr. Santee noted a letter would be provided to the Resident Engineer.

Action Item:

Geotechnical and Structures Management Units will discuss implementation dates.

4. Models for Screed Setup

Mr. Earwood shared that several Contractors are utilizing computer models for determining layouts, SIP elevations, and screed setup. He noted that models do not consider external variables such as thermal affects and that NCDOT personnel will use traditional surveying methods to verify elevations. He stated that if the model predictions and surveyed elevations do not match, the discrepancies should be discussed and resolved.

Action Item:

None

5. Bridge Demolition

Mr. Earwood shared that during a recent demolition of a steel girder bridge the girders began to sag because the Contractor had caused significant damage to the girder flanges during demolition operations. He noted that this required the Contractor to remove equipment from the bridge, monitor the girders, and use an alternative demolition plan. Mr. Earwood shared that the Department is reviewing bridge demolition policy and he reminded Contractors that they and their Subcontractors should be protecting and monitoring the primary load carrying members during demolition.

Action Item:

Construction and Structures Management Units will discuss policy for bridge demolition.

6. Material Availability and Pricing

Mr. Barbour noted that the industry is experiencing volatility in material prices and availability. He inquired about Contractors' interest in asking the Department to consider price adjustments based on market prices at the time of purchase versus bid prices. Contractors noted this was discussed during the 2008 economic slump and material suppliers were reluctant to agree to price adjustments.

Mr. Boyd noted concerns with dramatic increase in structural steel prices and lack of availability. He noted that suppliers are only able to guarantee quotes for 30 days. Mr. Hanks inquired about structural steel delivery time and Mr. Boyd noted it was approximately twelve to sixteen months.

Action Item:

None

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2021.