

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

The meeting of the ACES/Caltrans DES Structures Liaison Committee was held in person on Friday, November 3 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

I. Call to Order

Posted meeting minutes are available on the Caltrans website linked below:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/engineering-services/special-funded-projects-and-local-assistance>

Mark Reno reminded the Committee that meeting minutes do not include attachments unless they are ADA compatible.

A. Self Introductions

The meeting began with self-introductions for those present in Sacramento and attending virtually in Diamond Bar.

B. Changes to the Agenda

Mark Reno asked for proposed changes to the agenda; no changes were requested.

C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (August 11, 2023)

The previous meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. No comments were received on the minutes.

II. DES/ACEC Updates

A. General: Tom Ostrom

- Tom reported that retirements at Caltrans are peaking. Tom Ostrom will retire at the end of December of this year, and his vacant position will be filled around the same time. There are currently two empty Deputy Director positions within the Division of Engineering Services. Jeremy Peterson is now the Deputy Division Chief of Construction. Hamid Sadraie is now the Deputy Division Chief of Program/Project Management & Office Engineer. April 17, 2024 will mark the 100th year anniversary of Caltrans DES.
- Tom reported that infrastructure funding continues to be strong. Between gas tax revenues and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Caltrans is administering \$17.5 Billion a year for the construction program. Currently, Caltrans has over 1,000 projects and \$13 Billion included in next year's budget.
- Caltrans is on pace to hire 250 people next year. Projected A&E usage next year will be similar to this year. Tom reported that Caltrans will need more staff to execute the high number of A&E contracts being utilized.

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

- Caltrans administered over \$1 Billion in emergency response projects last year. The funding came from disaster relief, so it did not impact funding for other construction projects. Caltrans anticipates that emergency response will become a year-round effort.
- The bid environment is increasingly competitive. Bids are generally coming in at the engineer's estimate.
- Caltrans is getting ramped up on several large projects that include the Stockton Channel Viaduct, Pit River Bridge, Coronado Bridge, Vincent Thomas Deck Replacement, and the Last Chance Grade Projects.
- Last week, Caltrans department executives gathered for the annual leadership conference to discuss four core principles: safety, climate action, equity, and economic prosperity. Tom reported that the 2024 SHOPP will be released in the next week or two. The SHOPP is no longer simply bridge/pavement rehabilitation, it includes complete streets and resiliency. Caltrans is continuing to research materials advancement for more sustainable highways.

B. Technical: Structures Technical Policies, Technical Research: Don Nguyen-Tan

The publication date for updated AASHTO 10th Edition will be delayed and is now expected in June or July of 2024. Caltrans is starting to mobilize committees to review the new code to publish the Caltrans Amendments. Don estimated that the 10th Edition of AASHTO is likely to be adopted by Caltrans approximately 18 months after the 10th Edition is published.

C. Contracting Opportunities: Hamid Sadraie/Sid Pedaballi

Sid noted three contracts that are currently out for advertisement: 1) Office of Transportation Architecture Contract, 2) Design Contract for the southern districts, and 3) Structure Construction Contract for District 4 (advertisement is currently on hold).

Concerning upcoming contracts, Sid reported that three structure inspection contracts will be issued for the northern districts. There will also be an upcoming design services contract for the Vincent Thomas Bridge.

Sid reported that contract procurements are delayed due to the negotiation process. It was requested that the consultant community do a better job with documentation to streamline the process.

D. Local Assistance: Robert Peterson / Andy Chou

Andy Chou reported that HBP Managers developed financial constraints for next year's HBP program (October 1 through September 30). The HBP programming list has been distributed to local agencies. With a few exceptions, all funding requests were granted. The bridge formula program under the IIJA was a big boost to the HBP program. Since there are two years of funding left under the IIJA, the message to local agencies is to deliver, deliver, deliver.

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

Mark Reno asked when the financial constraint list will be posted to the Caltrans website. Andy responded that there is a lag time due to ADA compliance. However, the lists have been distributed to Districts and local agencies can request the list from their respective District. Andy added that the monthly status update spreadsheet on the HBP website will also show programmed projects.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee: Garrett Dekker

Garrett reported that full-service construction contracts have been approved by FHWA and Caltrans DPAC is working on template language for Districts to implement. The first contracts will be rolled out in the Los Angeles Region.

Caltrans is working on new language that will allow Contract Managers on A&E contracts to waive the standard minimum experience requirement. Historically, three years of experience has been required for technical personnel working on Caltrans contracts.

F. Construction Management and Inspection Updates: Rich Foley/Jon Rohrer

Rich reported that the 2024 Winter Training will focus on Alternative Delivery, ABC, and prestressing. Rich and Jon Rohrer are currently coordinating on the consultant Winter Training.

Rich noted that Caltrans Construction is working to deliver projects despite the high retirement rate.

III. Sub-committees

A. ABC (Accelerated Bridge Construction): Garrett Dekker/Habib Hotaki

Habib shared highlights from the Caltrans Annual Report. Caltrans is contracting with Iowa State University on three research projects. Habib also coordinated with Caltrans Structures Construction to incorporate ABC into the 2024 Winter Training. Caltrans continues to participate in monthly webinars at Florida International University. Habib is also supporting Design branches incorporate ABC into projects. Caltrans supported the University of Oklahoma Construction Science Division with the development of PMP processes for ABC projects.

Habib reported that the Authorized Materials List (AML) is now taking applications for Ultra High-Performance Concrete (UHPC) manufacturers. Caltrans attended the third international symposium on UHPC earlier in 2023, and there are lessons learned from other projects that are being applied to prospective projects.

The 2nd Edition of the Caltrans ABC Manual is in development.

B. CMGC/Design-Build (Lessons Learned): Mark Reno/Jason Chou

Mark reported that the CMGC workshop was held on October 20, and it exceeded expectations. The CMGC workshop was attended by 135 people consisting of nine construction companies,

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

nine public agencies, 22 consultant firms, and 38 Caltrans personnel. Mark gave his thanks to those who helped to plan the event as well as participate in the event.

Since Progressive Design Build is being rolled out in California as demonstration projects, that may be the next subject matter for a webinar or workshop. The ACEC community is working on Progressive Design Build projects in other states. Mark suggested that the name of this subcommittee be changed to “*Alternative Project Delivery Methods*”.

C. BIM (Building Information Model): Doug Dunrud/Bobby Zermeno

Bobby Zermeno reported that the BIM Subcommittee is working with Caltrans to prepare a virtual joint webinar on November 17. Caltrans will cover their BIM related progress over the past year and half, and Doug Dunrud will present recent case studies. Bobby also indicated that Caltrans is setting up a BIM Infrastructure Summit to be held in February/March 2024. Caltrans is collecting data from consultant committees on BIM readiness and development. The information being collected is anonymous. Caltrans is also surveying contractors on their readiness to accept BIM. Contractor readiness largely depends on rebar fabricators and other subcontractors. These subcontractors and DBE contractors may be those least ready. The focus should be on using BIM as a tool to deliver projects, with a goal of using BIM more comprehensively by 2028. Tom said that BIM implementation has been slow to start, but Caltrans is starting to see BIM pick up inertia. Other State DOTs have not been actively rolling out BIM, so Caltrans hopes to be an industry leader in this regard.

D. Technical Subcommittee: Garrett Dekker (Jack Abcarius)/Jason Chou

Garrett noted that responses to technical questions will be emailed by the ACEC Committee, but they are not ADA-compliant and therefore will not be posted to the Caltrans website.

Garrett summarized a question regarding the incorporation of vendor details into project plan sets. The Committee asked whether a vendor detail from the AML needs to be incorporated into the project plans. Caltrans responded that if a vendor detail is provided in the AML, the detail does not need to be repeated in the contract documents.

Garrett summarized a question regarding Structure Technical Policy 5.4.3, which requires the contractor to wait at least 60 days after post-tensioning to place a deck closure pour. The Committee asked for clarification on that requirement and Caltrans will follow up with a formal answer.

For access to example documents referenced in Caltrans design documents, such as the project specific design criteria listed in BDM 1.5, consultants should make a request through this Committee.

E. Education Training/Seminar/Webinar: Michael Van Duyn/Lance Schrey

- The joint ACEC/Caltrans BIM Webinar will take place on November 17, 2023

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

- ABC Workshop in February of 2024 will be in person in Sacramento at the Capital Event Center. The topics include Ultra High-Performance Concrete (UHPC); Precast Abutments; Type Selection; Caltrans Construction Perspectives; and Design and Construction Case Studies. The Committee is still looking for presenters, so if interested, please contact Garrett and Habib.
- Education Committee – Consultants can attend these sessions, but they need to get the email directly through Mark Reno. The next Education Committee webinar will feature a Diverging Diamond project and will be held on November 15. On December 20, a session will be held on the "softer side of construction." Caltrans is encouraging consultant topics, and Mark included forms to apply in the meeting minute package.
- 2024 Caltrans Winter Training – Rich Foley confirmed that the 2024 winter topic will include ABC, Prestressed Concrete and Alternative Delivery segments.

IV. Discussion Items

1. Caltrans Bicycle Railing Updates

Caltrans has been given direction to use bicycle railings on all bridges unless they explicitly prohibit bicycle access. Structures Local Assistance will recommend the use of bicycle railings but will leave it to the local agencies whether to use them. Bicycle railings will be eligible under the HBP Program. If there is a planned bicycle path on the bridge, a bicycle railing is mandatory.

2. Update on the LBSRP

Roberta Jensen is a Highway Bridge Program Manager and also manages the Local Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program (LBSRP). The LBSRP was created after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The program originally included 1,235 local bridges. By 2006, 756 bridges had been retrofit. Since the program was a State Mandate, Proposition 1B was approved to set aside funds to help deliver the remaining bridges. In 2018, about 64 bridges were remaining and local agencies were notified that they had made little to no process on necessary retrofit work. CTC amended their guidelines to incorporate new project delivery agreements for agencies with bridges remaining. Agencies that do not meet their delivery agreements are ineligible to receive new funding under the HBP.

Roberta started in 2021, there were still 51 active projects. As of June 30, 2023, there are 39 remaining, with 22 in construction. The remaining 17 bridges are in design where there is a risk that the prop 1B funds will not be available to fund construction. Further delays in delivery will increase that risk.

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

3. Caltrans STP 2.6: Don

Caltrans is close to distributing a draft of STP 2.6. Lance will send the draft to Cathy Avila for review and schedule a review meeting a couple weeks later. Cathy will keep distribution to a limited number of participants and will compile all comments into a single document.

4. Geotechnical

Mark Reno reported the Committee is working to get more geotechnical participation from the consultant side. Caltrans confirmed that Nina Choy will represent geotechnical design from the Caltrans side.

5. Annual Report

Mark will prepare the Annual Report for the Committee.

6. Caltrans 100 Year Anniversary

For the Caltrans 100 Year Anniversary, Lance is looking for short video vignettes to share. There will also be STEM events that are being planned in cooperation with AASHTO. Local exhibits will be displayed at District offices. The main event will be April 17, 2024 at the Transportation Laboratory and will feature a series of videos. If there is interest in participating, contact Lance.

7. Next Year

Mark Reno will rotate out of the co-chair position and Hank Doll is stepping down from the Member 6 position. Garrett Dekker will assume co-chair, Michael Van Duyn will step into the Secretary role, and Frank Martin will step into the Member 6 role. Mark encouraged consultants to share our own experiences and perspectives with Caltrans.

2024 Scheduled Meetings:

- February 2, 2024
- May 3, 2024
- August 2, 2024
- November 1, 2024

Miscellaneous Questions: Open Forum

None.

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023**

V. 2023 Meeting Schedule

February 3, 2023 (1st Friday)
May 12, 2023 (2nd Friday)

August 11, 2023 (2nd Friday)
November 3, 2023 (1st Friday)

VI. Distribution:

A. Caltrans:

Tom Ostrom	Caltrans DES	Vassil Simeonov	Caltrans SMI
Ruth Fernandes	Caltrans SES	Shira Rajendra	Caltrans PPM & OE
Rich Foley	Caltrans SC	Jason Chou	Caltrans OSFP/SLA
Nina M Choy	Caltrans GS	Sid Pedaballi	Caltrans OPD & SCM
Tim Greutert	Caltrans METS	Robert Peterson	Caltrans HQ/LA
Sudhakar Vatti	Caltrans SD	John Lammers	Caltrans SC

B. ACEC Regular Committee Members:

Member 1: Districts 1,2,3,9,10:	Mark Reno	Conсор
Member 2: District 11:	Jack Abcarius	NV5
Member 3: District 4:	Garrett Dekker	Moffatt & Nichol
Member 4: Districts 7,8,12:	Michael Van Duyn	HNTB
Member 5: Districts 5,6:	Bobby Zermeno	Cornerstone Structural Engineering
Member 6 (CM&I): Districts 1-6 and 9-10	Hank Doll, Mark Thomas	
Member 7 (CM&I): Districts 7-8 and 11-12	Jon Rohrer, HDR	

Attachments*:

- Summary of 2023 Technical Questions

*Attachments not included in posted meeting minutes, because they are not ADA compatible