

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

The meeting of the ACES/Caltrans DES Structures Liaison Committee was held by Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting from 10:00 AM to noon.

I. Call to Order

A. Changes to the Agenda

No changes were requested.

B. In-Person Meetings in 2023?

Agreed to go back to previous in-person format in Room 102 in Sacramento. No hybrid meetings. Committee will monitor logistics going forward and include limits on spacing for health reasons.

C. Review Annual Report 2021

Bobby Zermeno is working on this and will circulate the final draft prior to the next quarterly meeting.

- When finalized it will be posted on the web site where the 2021 annual report is currently posted.

D. Review Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous (11/18/22) minutes still being circulated in draft form. Lance Schrey has posted older minutes in ADA compliant format w/o attachments (this includes the OSFP “Information and Procedures Guide”). Attachments will only be circulated via email. Future minutes will be posted similarly.

II. DES/ACEC Updates

A. General: Tom Ostrom / Shira Rajendra

- Personnel: Bridge Deputy Design Chief retiring-backfill underway; Dave Keim appointed DES Chief of staff; New State Maintenance Engineer; Lance Schrey will send out org charts to ACEC Committee Members in advance of each quarterly meeting.
- Storms recovery-highway systems held up well. 40 counties with damage on SHS. Hwy 1, SR-9 and SR-33 hardest hit. DES Geo tech doing a great job helping out.
- Despite budget shortfall, IHA and SB1 is helping DES keep up with commitments. \$3.1B last year, \$5.4B this year and \$7B next year and following.
- DES continues in its hiring. Numbers close to 1650 FTE’s currently with 2000 FTEs with others including consultants.

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- Construction bid environment going back to normal meaning more disparity in estimates and big road/bridge projects due to fuel/labor/trucking. Aggregates prices are increasing, too. Looking for better ways lessen the gap of 30-40% difference currently in EE vs. Bids to closer to 10%.
- Middle Mile BB -5 contracts to be awarded. More local projects being let out (8-10 CMGC contracts). It's a robust delivery plan through 2024.
- Strategic Initiatives:
 - Safety #1 with Roadside Safety Action Plans, better type selection; efficient work zones
 - BIM Implementation-consultants needed; progress on Pro DMS and Materials database
 - Emissions reductions
 - Pivoting quicker in changing political/technology climate

B. Technical: Structures Technical Policies, Technical Research: Sudhakar Vatti / Don Nguyen-Tan / Chris Traina

- Complex Bridge Chapter 2.7 of the OSFP "Information and Procedures Guide" was posted on the website.
- FCHRP has an ongoing meeting of recent domestic scan of innovations in construction and materials of bridge decks (10 DOT's presenting) related to premature deck life. More to follow.
- Auburn research completed a report of web data related to design loads being adequate. Confirmed AASHTO and LRFD load factors related to deck design are appropriate. Also found that truss bars in decks are not performing well. Sections 9.4 of the STP and the BDM are being updated to remove truss bar option. Std Plan needs revision also.
- AASHTO ballot items to be voted upon soon including some recommendations from this group.
- Standards updates-no new STP or BDM since last meeting. An extensive list of BDD's will be provided as an attachment. BDP manual several updates as well to get up to current AASHTO standards to be published later this year.
- Chris Traina provided a presentation on overall research rating criteria and funding process and how this relates to help guide funding through Geo/Structures. This presentation will be provided as an attachment.

Links to latest updates available in attachments.

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C. Contracting Opportunities: Shira Rajendra / Steve Gunther

- A&E Look Ahead Report: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/procurement-and-contracts/ae-contract-information>
 - 3 Structures Construction contracts: D-11 (\$6M); D-7/12 (no cost yet); 241/91 Project specific in D-12
 - Geotechnical Services A/E On-call contract Districts 1,2,3,4,5,6,9&10
 - BIM contract(s) working its way through DPAC

D. Local Assistance: Robert Peterson

- Tracking Bridge Investment Credit Program: Several large projects affecting funding if they go to construction this year.
- Local seismic projects have PD agreements and several agencies are out of compliance. Check website for details. Penalty if all funding goes on hold until back in compliance. Consultants may be able to help clients.
- Bridge Formula Program helping to right size payment of bills to Local Agencies
- Applications accepted on a continual basis. Cutoff dates in fall for current year.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee: Garrett Dekker

- Design: 2023 Construction Standards to be released in July (then annually); Sea level rise guidance also in the works.
- DPAC: New standards for contracting are now in full affect (no more grace period). ACEC is requesting greater guidance on evaluation process for refuting that decision; cost spreadsheet for fees is new in terms of escalations and ACEC is submitting rebuttal related to current 0%, 2.5%, 5% in 1st through 3rd years.
- Construction: Working on a template for full-service contracts; Broadband efforts are extending resources at HQ and regional level

F. Construction Management and Inspection (CMI) Updates: Rich Foley / Jon Rohrer / Hank Doll

- Winter Training (ACEC-CA format) on 4/24/23 with instruction live at Sacramento Translab with broadcast to regional locations. CMI team working with CT leads, Gabriel Acero and David Tenorio. Topic is Reinforced Concrete (RC) Technology and the revised RC Manual. Logistics to be coordinated.
- Meeting to discuss varying RFQ requirements for staffing: (a) “technician” class requires education (and/or) experience – CMI team preference is for the “education or experience” option to keep our highly experienced technicians in the industry; (b) use of interns and/or junior engineering classifications (need to work on prev. wage

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considerations) to get more junior staff to learn from experienced staff now before all the experience retires.

- CT looking to get more high school level staff into the mix to become inspectors first and provide programs for advancement. Suggestion was made to investigate an organization called “ACE” locally.

III. Sub-committees

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

Garrett reported that there was nothing major to report at this meeting. They are planning to hold another workshop 3rd quarter of 2023. Emphasis was provided how ABC is a product that can dramatically improve safety by reducing exposure times to hazards. ABC should be encouraged during type selection for this reason as well as any other reasons.

B. CMGC/Design-Build (Lessons Learned): Mark Reno/Sudhakar Vatti

Looking for dates in June for a seminar in Sacramento as in-person only. Renting a larger facility, so may be opportunities for sponsorship. Considerations for collaborating with CT, consultants, local agencies and maybe contractors.

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

Bobby, Doug and Elias are working on a Q2 presentation for May related to updates of where we are in this process statewide. Depending on time, a separate meeting may be required.

D. Technical Subcommittee: Garrett Decker / Sudhakar Vatti

Garrett is temporarily taking over for Jack. Funnel questions through your committee members. Garrett will present to Lance for filtering and directing. Project specific questions should go through your project LA engineer.

- Looking for specific policy document for when and how high bicycle railing is needed on any bridge.
- Kudos to all on the Scour effort related to STP 2.6-nearly finished. Lance is reviewing the minutes.
- Revised Std. Plan for Type 85 Rail coming out in FY 24 to revise longitudinal lap splicing allowance in certain conditions.

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E. Education Training/Seminar/Webinar: Michael VanDuyn / Lance Schrey

- CMGC Lessons Learned Seminar 2nd Qtr. '23
- Joint Caltrans/ACEC ABC Webinar 4th Qtr. '23.
- Caltrans Structures Construction Winter Training- April 24th

IV. Discussion Items

1. Update on new STP 2.6 Hydraulic Design for Structures over Waterways: Cathy Avila / Tony Nedwick

Covered in II.D.

2. Flood Damage and Scour Issues after recent storms: Mike Lee (SMI), Rich Foley (SC), Cathy Avila & Others

A recent storm did hit the 25-year event level. Events in Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties did not show any signs of bridge collapse, but more approach settlements/washouts and bank erosion. State scour teams sent staff out to critical bridges to monitor pre/during storms-found most damage was not really scour, but eroded banks. Local response using storm related action plans to monitor bridges proved helpful. Birch Creek collapse in Tehama Co. was closed immediately as County responder was in-route because of the action planning process. There may be some A/E efforts upcoming related to slide/slipouts including tieback/soldier pile walls, sidehill viaducts, etc. Lessons:

- Need consistency on load rating & opening post scour (agency to agency)
- Cross sections needed every few years @ critical bridges
- Funding available for scour prevention/study may be a worthwhile investment

Presentation related to local agency storms was performed and provided as an attachment.

Next meeting will be May 12, 2023. Mark Reno/Lance Schrey-co-chairs; Hank Doll -Secretary.

V. 2023 Meeting Schedule

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

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

VI. Distribution:

A. Caltrans:

Tom Ostrom	Caltrans DES	Nina M Choy	Caltrans GS
Ruth Fernandes	Caltrans SES	Tim Greutert	Caltrans METS
Rich Foley	Caltrans SC	Gudmund Setberg	Caltrans SD

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Vassil Simeonov	Caltrans SM&I	Sid Pedaballi	Caltrans OPD & SCM
Shira Rajendra	Caltrans PPM & OE	Robert Peterson	Caltrans HQ/LA
Sudhakar Vatti	Caltrans OSFP/SLA	John Lammers	Caltrans SC

B. ACEC Regular Committee Members:

Member 1: Districts 1,2,3,9,10:	Mark Reno	Conzor
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,	
Member 7 (CM&I): Districts 7-8 and 11-12	Jon Rohrer, HDR	

Attachments (the attachments listed below were sent out to members after the meeting, however they are not included on the website due to ADA compliance issues):

- DES Org Chart
- Presentation on research funding process