



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
and  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
Quarterly Meeting  
March 21, 2022 – 1:30 to 3:00  
Location – Virtual Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

- Introductions
- Review minutes – September 20, 2021, meeting
- Review agenda
- MaineDOT Updates (Including personnel changes).
  - General MaineDOT Updates – Rich Crawford
    - i) Office Re-entry – Actual dates have not been set and are still being considered at the state government level. MaineDOT has asked some areas to return based on operation need.
      - Bureau of Planning – In the office at a minimum of 3 days per week. This is based on the needs surrounding the infrastructure bill and other operational needs.
      - Project Development starting today staff are requiring staff to be in the office one day per week. Operational needs are starting to show up with regards to team building and the incorporation of new staff. Good timely communications and performance seems to be waning a bit. There is a focus on the rebuilding of teams and communications and making sure new employees understand the processes and communications. At some point the Department will move forward with a new hybrid of at least 3 days in the office. There is no set date for office re-entry.
    - ii) Overview of hourly wage -Construction Inspection Services
      - Rates were established in 2016. At that time there was no rate cap and the Department was seeing significant and rapid hourly rate increases outpacing normal inflation. The Construction Staff were chasing money and there was not a lot of stability.
      - The Department compared positions for department employees and averaged the rates between top step and added 20% to that amount with the intent that an annual adjustment would be made based on the consumer price index. Chad Lewis and Rich Crawford recently reviewed and applied the consumer index from 2016. Their efforts resulting in less than \$1 an hour difference for each classification therefore the Department is continuing with the rates they established.
      - Chad noted that when they did look at current positions and applied CTI from 2018 they held firms at the higher rates from the previous RFQ. In addition, the previous RFQ did allow for negotiation after 2 years. They allowed firms that held higher rates to remain at those rates.
    - iii) Office Re-entry – Actual dates have not been set and are still being considered at the state government level
  - Bridge – Wayne Frankhauser
    - i) Scott Rollins, Sr. Project Manager has transferred to a new position as the Virtual Public Meeting Coordinator. In addition, several other people in the program have new assignments (non-project manager or management related).
    - ii) 2022 Delivery – Very busy year with 54 projects totaling \$240 Million (including grants)

- iii) Construction – Very busy construction season. Some key projects include:
      - o Kittery – Portsmouth – The wearing surface work is nearly complete
      - o Portland, Veranda Street – Bridge Slide will be happening soon
      - o Madawaska, International Bridge – Well underway
    - iv) Bridge Design Guide re-write – The Department is making good progress on rewriting the Bridge Design Guide. The first three chapters have been drafted and are out for comment.
- Highway – Brad Foley
  - i) Mike Moreau – Mike has retired as Utility Engineer. He has been replaced by Ron Cote and the position now under the Utility Office.
  - ii) Delivery – 65% of the projects have been delivered through PS & E. There are a few more bigger jobs coming later in the year.
  - iii) Staffing Needs – The Department is putting out construction general contract paving bundles. Expect the same level of construction oversight staff as last year.
- Multimodal – Jeff Tweedie
  - i) John Kelly is no longer with Multimodal and his position is currently vacant
  - ii) Delivery – the program has delivered five internal projects, one LPA (on-time) and have two more LPA's pending advertising.
  - iii) Construction – Jenn Paul, Construction Manager has a solid staffing plan for consultants. She has been working with Steve Landry with ITS ATC integration issues. RFQ for the design will include INF Certification and Construction Level II for field staff.
- Contract Procurement Office – Chad Lewis
  - i) Staffing – Kelsey French is now in the Audit group and Andy Stafford started a few weeks ago.
  - ii) Processes – The CPO is looking at their forms and processes and trying to streamline. They want to make the RFP Template more concise.
  - iii) Wage Rate Waiver Process – Has been adjusted
  - iv) Consultant Evaluations - CPO is working on adjustments
  - v) Departmentwide RFQ for construction related services will be advertised in early September. It will include a new service for ITS disciplines.
- Property Office – Heath Cowen
  - i) Staffing – Guy Ladd has filled Chief Surveyor vacancy resulting from Peter Belanger's retirement.
  - ii) Utility Engineer (formally Mike Moreau and now Ron Cote) will report to Property Office. The utility coordinators will reside within the programs.
  - iii) Tony Kemmerle has retired and has been replaced by Adrienne Fernstrom
  - iv) Succession Planning - Creation of a junior mapper position, new position for relocation and looking at entry level appraisers.
  - v) PIC – Firms are doing a good job reducing the number of plan changes after PIC. Keep striving to do better
- Planning – Dale Doughty
  - i) Dale Doughty has returned to MaineDOT as the Director of the Bureau of Planning
  - ii)
- CADD Subcommittee – Jonathan French
  - i) RFP – Envision CAD was selected. Contract awarded in February. Several discovery meetings have been held
    - o Needs regular testing and development in early summer.
    - o Looking at better ways for file sharing including MicroStation SharePoint.
    - o Deadlines – September for final workspace.

- STIC Grant – The Department has a STIC Grant to take as-builts and make a model.
  - Bentley CAD – contract ends in the fall of 2023, and this will be the next RFP.
  - What is Envision CAD? – It will build a configuration with OpenRoads Designer. Even MicroStation only users will be using “OpenRoads”
  - Schedule – When will all projects be put in the new “workspace”? The Department is still working on this decision.
- Funding – Andy Bickmore
  - There is a steady stream of funding with notice of new funding opportunity programs with the Department actively pursuing approximately 10 grants.
    - i) Appropriations – Approx. \$60 Million of transportation funding through the Transportation – HUD spending bill. Infrastructure bill is almost here. It hasn’t been updated in the Federal Program.
    - ii) Bonds - \$100 Million Transportation Bond in November passed with overwhelming support.
    - iii) Supplemental Budget – Looking at funding with some General Fund versus bonds.
  - STIP – The STIP will be coming out shortly for public comment. Individual TIP’s will be given authority by mid-April to work on some new projects in the Workplan.
  - New Programs – Some of the new funding programs are opened to communities. Consultants, please take notice and let the municipalities you work with know about these programs. Some municipalities have the federal billing and/or ROW knowledge to manage the funding.
  - Infrastructure Bill - \$3.2 Billion plan; State match is included.
- Reports From Subcommittees - Chairs
  - Highway – Ray Hanf, HNTB
    - i) Making progress on program for “Lessons Learned” 2022. Anticipate presenting end of April or early May.
  - Multimodal – Don Ettinger, Gorrill Palmer
    - i) 403 Specifications – Can be challenging when requesting near end of project. Hoping to develop a lesson learned sheets.
    - ii) Marine Structural Specifications – Completed
    - iii) Railroad Special Provision – Completed
    - iv) LPA Program Lessons Learned – more collaboration needed
    - v) Rails with Trails – Next to develop standards for Rails with Trails
    - vi) Traffic Projects – There are a lot of changes in the traffic world. Will connect with Traffic Group by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - vii) There is a steady stream of funding with notice of new funding opportunity programs with the Department actively pursuing approximately 10 grants.
- Report on the next Technical Meeting – Foley/Grande/Hanf
  - Anticipate end of April/Early May
- 2021 Year End and 2022 Year to Date Delivery Performance Summary– Todd Pelletier

2021 Year End – 92% finished at 90% for the fifth year in the past 12 years.  
 2021 Year End LPA – 62% finished 63%, 12 projects totaling \$11.2 Million  
 2022 to date – 97% for CAP projects, 80 advertised, missed 2 projects  
 2022 LPA to date – 50% missed one.

Rich Crawford thanks the Consultants for helping with delivery and helping MaineDOT meet its goals.

- Every-Day Counts – State Transportation Innovation Council – Kellon Ronspies, FHWA and MaryAnn Hayes, MaineDOT
  - EDC – 7 Call out for EDC 7 innovation ideas was sent out they included the following:
    - ✓ Accelerating the Deployment of Electric Vehicle, Alternative Fuel, and Renewable Energy Infrastructure
    - ✓ Complete Streets - Safety Transformations
    - ✓ Enhanced Visibility for Safety
    - ✓ Environmental Product Declarations for Sustainable Pavements
    - ✓ Digital Twins: Leveraging Digital As-builts, GIS, and Enterprise Data for Asset Management and Improved Decision-Making
    - ✓ Integrating Greenhouse Gas Analysis and Targets in Transportation Planning
    - ✓ Internal Curing for Concrete Bridge Decks, Pavements, and Repairs
    - ✓ Level Up” in the Digital A-GaME
    - ✓ Next Generation TIM: Technology to Transform Response
    - ✓ Preserving and Reconnecting Communities
    - ✓ Putting Work Zones on the Map
    - ✓ Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Conflicts
    - ✓ River and Road Connections
    - ✓ Strategic Workforce Development
    - ✓ Supporting Equity in Federal Contracts: Effective DBE Program Practices in Design-Build
  - Collaborations – have done more to involve industry within MaineDOT to include our partners
  - STIC – 4 Working Groups
    - i) Advanced Technologies
    - ii) Workforce Development (EDC-6 Topic). Work together to tackle workforce development and look at ways to introduce young people to the many careers involved in Transportation.
    - iii) Engineering Expo – let us know if your firm is participating
    - iv) Career Profiles – Are people in your firms interested in being interviewed? Profiles could be static or videos.
- Maine Turnpike Authority Updates - Kristi Van Ooyen
  - Staff Changes - Ryan Barnes, PE has joined the Turnpike. He was formally Town Engineer for the Town of Brunswick. Ralph Norwood has moved to the position of Deputy Director of Highway and Equipment Maintenance
  - Bridge Repair, Kittery – was over bid twice. There was one bidder, and the Authority did not award.
  - 2023 - larger program in dollars but not as many projects.
  - Traffic is coming back to normal pre-covid levels. Many states are not seeing the same.
  - Cost of Projects – Concerns with Materials such as steel, aluminum and nickel. As we are working on projects, we need to consider materials and lead times. Many States are only looking at the last three months of bid history.
  - Tension Cable Guardrail - Don't specify, costs are up 40 to 50%.
- Next meetings:
  - Policy – September 19, 2022 Virtual