



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
and
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
Quarterly Meeting

September 18, 2023 – 1:30 to 3:00

Location – MaineDOT Maine Conference Room (216 – Main Floor)

- Introductions
- Review minutes –March 20, 2023, meeting
- Review agenda
- MaineDOT Updates (Including personnel changes).
 - General MaineDOT Updates – Jeff Folsom
Staffing is at 2020 levels with 325 filled positions down to approximately 300 positions. The Department continues to have difficulty filling positions and looks forward to sharing ideas about that later in the meeting. Ideally, the Department wants to be at 340 filled positions.
 - Commissioner Van Note responded to ACEC of Maine’s request to eliminate the wage rate cap resulting in an adjustment to \$85 per hour w/ provisions for automatic updates.
 - October 1st, 2023, Implementation (date changed October 10th after this meeting)
 - Requested ACEC of Maine comments within 14 days.
 - Construction Inspection Wage Rates – Received ACEC information and will provide address in a similar manner.
 - Internal Policy Change – APM 10 and 61 Schedule Management and financial management for Project Managers allows more financial authority. Change pending finalization by the Commissioner, will delegate down to Project Managers up to \$250,000 and Program Managers \$400,000.
 - Construction Cost Estimating - MaineDOT needs to improve their methods for construction cost estimating. There will be more discussions within the technical subcommittees.
 - AASHTOWare Estimations will be rolled out and hopefully the Department will be able to provide it to consultants. Currently, it is internal to MaineDOT. With the addition of the web-based system they should be able to allow access to consultants in the future.
 - MaineDOT is looking at the potential of having a Construction Estimator position to improve consistency within programs and among programs and consultants.
 - Artemis Project View – The Department is moving to Primavera Cloud Version for internal schedules. They will likely look at all of their scheduling templates as part of this change.
- Bridge Program – Rich Myers
 - Staff Changes
 - Transportation Engineer II promoted to III, Tim Aguilar is now Senior Engineer for Team North and this left a vacancy on Team South. Gary Libby was promoted to Project Manager in Team South. Derek Carlton is now Utility Coordinator for Team South.
 - Joe Stillwell has left Bridge and filled vacant Multimodal Construction Manager position.
 - James Manahan, Assistant Transportation Engineer has left. This leaves a Geotech vacancy.

- Work plan – dynamic balancing of 65 projects in 2024/25 and \$230 to \$240 Million next year, and \$275 Million in 2025. The Work Plan includes a lot of small bridge projects and culverts and based on the number of projects the Department is looking at bundling of projects and putting out an RFP of a large bundle of projects that includes all services including survey, utility coordination and right-of-way mapping. They are also considering a design build bundle of projects.
- Bidding – There is a lot of competition for small projects, but estimating is not keeping up.
- Construction Staffing – Staffing project in construction is a year-to-year issue.
- Bridge Design Guide
 - Chapters 1 and 2 are nearly completed and the Department is considering publishing to ACEC for review and comment.
 - Chapter 3 – Covers Preliminary Design - there is a lot written but it still needs review.
 - Chapter 4 – Hydraulics is a new chapter and needs review
- CSX has taken over PanAM – MaineDOT is working on a Standard Agreement.

- Highway Program – Steve Bodge
 - Staff Changes – Highway now has 33 people
 - Ernie Martin is leading his own team. His team is 100% consultants.
 - Doug Coombs has taken over Ernie's previous team.
 - Norma Gilman has retired and interviews for her vacancy have been scheduled.
 - Culvert Grant Bundle – The Department won three competitive grants for culvert replacements. Highway will take a lot of these culverts and will use in-house first and move up to consultants after.

- Multi-Modal – Nate Benoit
 - Staff Changes
 - Joel Stillwell has filled the Construction Manager position
 - Construction Staff included Karen Libby and two Assistant Engineers
 - LAP delivery is struggling and is currently below 50% on-time delivery.
 - MaineDOT administered projects are doing well.
 - Projects Outlook for next year – Double ended ferry and Lubec Breakwater are in design, Casco Bay **downbay?**, several small safety and signal projects.
 - CSX Projects - four large CRISSY rail projects with CSX. They are holding agreements and they don't do their own work (contracts out). CSX has their own bridge design manual and plans need to include the information that they require based on their manual.

- Regional Program – Denis Lovely
 - Staff Changes
 - Region 3 – Murphy
 - Region 1 filled vacancy with John Skully
 - Delivery – all 8 CHIP project were let and all but one will be completed this year. The plan is to advertise 12 next year.

- Bridge Maintenance – No report

- Contract Procurement Office – Chad Lewis
 - Staff Changes
 - Intern was hired but is now moving over to Planning
 - Interviewing the Bridge Program CS vacancy
 - Gail Lizotte, Supervisor Position is retiring the end of November and will likely be filled through an internal promotion.

- Wage Rate Waiver Request Form has been revised to reflect the Commissioner's Memo regarding the new Wage Rate Cap.
 - Current Departmentwide RFQ Status – The Department received additional information related the Wage Rate Waiver Elimination Request for Construction Services on September 14th. Current GCA ordering periods end and the Department is looking at options and the potential to extend the existing contracts.
 - Work Flow Update – Existing Staff will need to pick up additional work in Planning and Bridge. Chad continues to offer his support and feel free to reach out to him.
 - Contracting Streamlining Charter – The Department has developed a Charter/Team to look at contracting for consultants, services and commodity. Chad is currently reviewing state and federal requirement. The contracting manual is very outdated. More information coming the in the future. The report/findings are due in February.
 - P.Duval noted that the indemnification clause causes difficulties for Consultants to find insurance providers. The language is different from that used by Bureau of General Services. ACEC will send information regarding the indemnification clause. K. Van Ooyan requested discussions be shared with the Turnpike.
- Property Office – Heath Cowan
 - Staff Changes
 - No one is applying for vacant positions.
 - ROW Mapper in Region 5 has left.
 - Bundling of Culvert Work – Survey availability is impacting schedules – maybe streamlining some the information up front to get to PDR and then going back to collect field data will help. They are also looking at doing some of the mapping in a series.
 - Changes After PIC are still occurring. If the Property Office has to go and do re-work this could significantly impact the project schedules. Please refer to the ROW Manual.
 - All new projects are being surveyed for use in Open Roads.
- Planning – No Report
 - Virtual Public Involvement – Removed
- CADD Subcommittee – Jonathan French
 - ORD Update and overview of upcoming peer exchanges
 - Website is converting to Druple
 - V1.6 workspace is online
 - V1.7 workspace ready to be uploaded to website after conversion complete
 - Will create one manual for plotting
 - All videos are ready and but currently only available internally.
 - V1.8 coming out approximately the end of Oct.
 - Project Conversion timeline – PDR/PIC or PS&E and when to stop using V8i – Project Manager needs to request conversions. MaineDOT provides workset to consultants using DOT folder structure and drawings and they need to come back that way.
 - Conversions – Survey is the easiest to convert however design and ROW conversion is not as easy and will require manual revisions. PM's have been told that construction timelines may need to be adjusted for the learning curves. ORD is also doing a major update each year. 2021 release 2 will be used until the DOT decides to upgrade.
 - There are no exact number on how many projects are being done in ORD.
 - Does the Department intend on using Projectwise – not at this time.
 - Open bridge - No immediate plan to use open bridge. Currently negotiating with Bentley and making sure they have that capability if they decide to go that route.
 - ORD Consultant Training through ACEC of Maine – Theresa McAuliffe shared that the ORD training put on through ACEC was well attended by the consultants.
- Funding – Jeff Folsom

- Workplan- All Committees have submitted candidate projects based on anticipated funding (congressional and grants)
 - Adjusting to the reality of the CDS spending and the grants – they look first at PE only projects. It looks like plenty of projects for the Bridge Program but not so many for Highway and they are looking to add more PE only for Highway.
 - Culverts – A lot of large culvert projects. We need to get very efficient in delivering the culverts that turn into bridges.
 - Small Bridges – A lot in the next work plan especially on Corridor Priority 4 roadways.
 - Success rate on competitive grants is very good to date.
- Report from Subcommittee Co – Chairs
 - Bridge – Not Present. ACEC Transportation Taskforce Chairs will follow up.
 - Highway – Not Present, Steve Bodge noted that for Lessons Learned 2 he is waiting for the slides from the current ACEC Co-Chair and then MaineDOT will work on setting up the presentation.
 - Multimodal – Don Ettinger
 - Met in June, Jonathan gave an update and Brian Keezer on Traffic plans and standardization. It was noted that AASHTO released the pedestrian lighting primer and discussed Mid-block crossings with flashers etc.
 - ADA Compliant sidewalks and crosswalks is a 2% cross slope and there is no tolerance on that. We may see MaineDOT standard change to 1.5 percent to allow a little tolerance. Per Steve Bodge use 1.5% now.
 - September Mtg - Kate McGuire gave a presentation on foundation designs. Once you know you need foundations, during PDR boring program and then structure loadings at PIC, then she provides sheets. There is also a shop drawing review process where loads are submitted to Kate for confirmation.
 - Next Meeting is scheduled for December 6th. Joel Stillwell will discuss the shop drawing submittal process and construction manager expectations.
- Workforce Development - Report from MaineDOT and Consultants on what we are doing for Work Force Development
 - MaineDOT is hiring a recruiter/on-boarder to reduce the timeframe in the hiring process. They are likely going to start having continuous postings until positions are filled. They will review applicants weekly and schedule interviews immediately. All entry level positions will be posted; they are no longer going to wait for a specific job position to open before posting.
 - Miss out on community colleges, they go to UMaine but not UNH. High schools and technical schools with CAD Programs are looking to bring that back.
 - Develop project development specific brochure – tuition reimbursement and the work they do, work life balance. Market the Maine Student Loan Program.
 - There is a workforce development coordinator through AGC – MaineDOT is participating through the STIC.
 - Some firms are laying off. Maybe there are other opportunities outside.
 - What do consultants do when on-boarding staff to work on MaineDOT projects? MaineDOT and Committees are making sure checklists and information is on-line. Does MaineDOT use a temp service to get people in the door to help find the good candidates.
 - Winter Internship programs – to work over winter break to spend a week in each market.
 - Internships in Sophomore year and getting them aligned with them to accept their position before their senior year. First year in the field, in the office typical Junior Senior.
 - A lot of people are changing careers – finding roles and duties that don't require the technical to free up the engineers to maintain capacity.

- Program called Handshake – must be accepted into it by each college.
 - Be active at local colleges – capstone projects, poster presentations so you get to see the students early and develop relationships with professors.
- 2023 Year to Date Delivery Performance Summary– Jeff Folsom
 177 projects 172 at 97%
 212 out of 219 96%
 Best year was 2020.
 MaineDOT wants to make sure we are doing the right things
 PSE 94% by end of year
 Projects remaining:
 HW 5
 Region 4
 MM 7
 Bridge 25
 LAP just under 50%

 Focus is on supplemental needs for the coming year.
 Supplemental CAP -
- EDC-7 & State Transportation Innovation Council Updates – Jennifer Williams, FHWA
 Part in 6 of 7 initiatives
 Strategic Workforce Development
 Enhanced performance of internally cured concrete
 Nextgen
 - FHWA – General Updates – Jennifer Williams, FHWA
 Field and division operations team is fully staffed
 Prowag – proposed rulemaking 2024
 - Maine Turnpike Authority Updates - Kristi Van Ooyen
 - Gorham Connector – still very active working with resource agencies and public process. Funded for construction in 2026. Connector has 5 major structures and culverts.
 - Program for next couple of years is light mostly paving and 2026 will triple.
 - Next meetings:
 - Technical –Highway Program Lessons Learned
 - Policy – March 18, 2024, 1:30pm – 3pm