**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER BOARD REPORT**

**In lieu of a committee meeting, the Transportation Committee organized a Roundtable with DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson on August 10, 2021.**

Notes:

ACECL convened a hybrid annual Roundtable with the DOTD Secretary conducted August 10, 2021 at the DOTD Headquarters. Over 60 members attended.

The Secretary addressed a number of issues including:

* Plans for increased state and federal infrastructure funding
  + $300m increase in annual state funding from dedication of a percentage of the sales tax on motor vehicle sales and rentals. Only $150m can be bonded annually.
    - Will be dedicated to additional capacity and cash managing projects
    - Many of the large projects on the legislation’s list are not ripe for cash spending (BR Miss River Bridge/Calcasieu Bridge).
    - The remaining 25% of spend doesn’t leave a lot but would be spent on additional match and priority projects
    - Additional federal funding
      * $216 m received in December 2020 from American Rescue Plan (ARP)
      * $500m received in 2021 from ARP
      * $500m to be recommended by Governor for appropriation in 2022
      * All ARP funds-
        + Preservation: Quick spend, huge need
        + Larger capacity projects such as Jimmie Davis, interstate widening, I-20 (I65E, Caddo)
        + LA 415
        + Hooper Road
        + 5 year, $6 billion bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – IIJA)

$300m + per year over current allocation. Based on formula. La. usually gets about 1.7% of the annual funding and this increase tracks

Add ons that La could draw down: charging stations, bridges

Will be hard to take advantage of any redistribution

Also funding for water, broadband

Priorities for all new federal funding:

Accelerate priority projects: bridges, preservation, safety, TAP.

Will see more design on shelf to be ready to go.

Dust off some older design and update as well as start design on some priority projects.

Address congestion, bridges, preservation, district needs.

Possibility of additional future state investment in roads and bridges

Probably no gas tax soon

Road user fees would capture hybrids and electric cars

Tolls: need public and policy makers to understand there is not enough money for major projects without tolls.

Road Transfers

4 years - $25m per year

Design Build

Legislation passed to allow DOTD to pre-qualify a set number of contractors. 80% of the team would be qualified, then contractor can bring in additional subs

Trying to streamline process

Pre-qualified firms can compete for two years on projects that go to RFP

If not on the pre-qualified list, there would be a window to come back in

DOTD will promulgate rules

Not putting limits on the value of projects to be considered for DB or CMAR

Expecting to use on $400m in projects next year

Florida Avenue Bridge

* + - I-20 widening
    - I-12 widening
* AASHTO Priorities
  + Pathways to equity in industry
    - Help provide leadership around pathways to equity
    - How to sustain focus on equity long term
    - Partnerships with MPOs
    - Open door a little wider to expand pool of diversified workforce
    - May 2022 AASHTO Conference in New Orleans

**DOTD Consultant Outreach Group Meeting was held August 24, 2021**

Notes:

Traffic

* DOTD has revoked previous COVID19 traffic count limitations.
* Traffic consultants should coordinate with district engineers to make appropriate adjustments depending upon local conditions.

Invoice changes

* ACECL noted that DOTD changes invoices without notifying the community. DOTD agreed they will push out any substantive changes to invoices.
* Make sure DOTD has your correct email.

Negotiation process

* CCS will be doing a in-service presentation on the DOTD negotiation process for PMs
* This is not a course on how generally to negotiate as there are other trainings available to PMS but they will be directing them on DOTD expections:
  + They have to come to the negotiations with their own manhour estimates
  + They need to have 1 to 2 negotiation meetings with consultants
  + They need to complete the negotiations within 90 days

24-102 changes

* DOTD will be changing the number of relevant projects required to be submitted for #17 FIRM EXPERIENCE starting with next advertisements.
  + Instead of a total of 30 projects per team, they will limit projects to 15
  + Instead of limiting a single firm to no more than 10 projects, they will limit to 8
* With the 24-102, DOTD is proposing to provide a standard excel spreadsheet for firms to complete #12 Past Performance; #13 Firm Size and #19 Workload with tabs in the spreadsheet for prime and subs.
  + The consultant would then not have to re-input the data into the 24-102 chart.
  + Having the data in a spreadsheet would make the PET review more efficient.
  + They do not want to create extra work. Is this a concern to the consultants?

2022 DOTD Conference

* DOTD is not going to change its mind about having the conference in person.

Urban System project evaluations

* ACECL asked DOTD if they would consider providing an performance evaluation for an urban system project.
* DOTD stated they have lots of discussion about this and feel that they do not have enough control and visibility on these projects to complete an evaluation. They serve only as a pass through for the money.
* DOTD noted that in the past, not having a past performance score could be fatal but with the weighed scoring system, points earned in other sections can overcome the past performance score.
* The statute requires DOTD to consider past performance on DOTD projects and DOTD does not view a project theirs if they did not sign the contract for the work.
* They recommended that firms use those projects for their firm experience and within the approach and methodology sections.

Bentley Open Roads

* DOTD is six months to one year away from implementation
* ACECL asked that DOTD keep us informed of their pace so firms can get their staff trained.

Overhead rates

* General discussion about a consultant/DOTD PM lunch and learn around what goes in to a firm’s overhead so PMs have a better understanding of what firms can and cannot get reimbursed for.

Approach and Methodology

* General discussion relative to whether the Approach and Methodology section of the 24-102 is proprietary information and protected from public records law.
* Topic for ACECL Transportation Committee

Next Meeting

* Mid November. TBD

Next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2021 at 1:30pm.