

**TDOT/ACEC Partnering Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 15, 2010**

The TDOT/ACEC Partnering Committee meeting convened April 15, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of TDOT headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. There were 21 in attendance (Roster attached). The following summary follows the meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item #1 – General Comments**

Mr. Paul Degges opened the meeting by introducing Joe Carpenter as the new Environmental Chief. He then indicated that the Department would start the process of filling Mr. Carpenter's old position as Assist Chief Engineer. Mr. Degges then discussed the following items.

*Budget Issues & Funding*

- TDOT let \$1.2 Billion in contracts last year, obligate \$1.5 Billion and obligated every ARRA allocation to the Department. TDOT was able to match all Federal money.
- Under the continuing resolution, TDOT gets an additional 20% (~\$100m) due to existing earmarks. Therefore, TDOT will receive the full 2009 level plus the October Federal Bill, the 20% for existing earmarks, and undone rescissions.
- When TDOT puts together 3-YR program the first year will benefit from this above. TDOT's goal is to obligate funds by September 30. Locals may be assisted by TDOT with a higher match in order to meet the funding deadline.
- Long-term Federal funding (reauthorization) will likely shift resources from traditional highway investments to transit and multi-modal investments. FRA has TIGER Grants and rail money will receive a priority.

*Other Issues*

- Mr. Carpenter indicated that TDOT wants to make sure TDOT is included in the high speed rail corridor between Louisville Nashville and Atlanta. TDOT is looking at other strategic ways, such as a partnership with Norfolk-Southern, to take advantage of any shifts in funding.
- Mr. Degges indicated that the TDOT Commissioner chairs a waterway AASHTO committee and here could be more work in that area.
- The stimulus package allowed TDOT to get back log cleaned up. Now it is time to start looking ahead.
- Mr. Degges indicated that TDOT is concerned with the legislature specifically a current bill regarding procurement procedures and a proposed bill concerning ROW procedures.
- Mr. Carpenter indicated that the trend is for more accountability and transparency. TDOT wants to be responsible but want to limit political push.
- TDOT wants to develop the interstate program and build off of the recent corridor studies for I-40/I-81, I-75 study which is underway, and a new I-24/I-65 study underway this year.
- The Long Range Transportation plan speaks to strategic corridors and 10-yr strategic investments. TDOT want to fill the gaps in major corridors and will use the planning process to drive projects.
- TDOT has a list of projects that have stalled. They have done an analysis and plan to cancel 30-35 projects. Consultants will be notified in coming weeks.

*TDOT Personnel*

- The current state budget requires TDOT to eliminate 200 positions. Directors are doing a review. Many of the cuts are expected to be vacancies. Design, structures, materials have significant cuts. This will force TDOT to review how they are put together to see if they can absorb these changes or need to restructure. TDOT is considering procurement of a Consultant for an entire project: from planning through design and including NEPA.

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- The Design Division will lose 28 vacant positions with most being entry level and one supervisor position. A lot of the losses have to do with how long the positions have been vacant.
- Mr. Jones will retain the ITS Manager 2 position and hire for this once the position is unfrozen. This candidate will have traffic engineering with specific ITS experience.

**Agenda Item #2 – Digital Signatures / Seals on plans**

FileNet has been a very good tool especially getting ARRA projects done. One thing that has not been included is a way to efficiently submit final sealed drawings. TDOT presented a demonstration on proposed procedures for electronically sealing plans. This demonstration has not been done for the Engineering Board. There are a few issues that need to be worked out and TDOT is requesting assistance from the ACEC Transportation Committee to provide feedback.

TDOT's proposed procedures most closely follow the Virginia DOT's. TDOT is considering a program from Entrust with a USB drive. Each individual would be required to have their own license with USB. Current pricing is \$399 for each individual per year and utilizes Adobe © V6.0 or later.

Procedures in summary include:

1. Scan a signed & dated seal.
2. Watermark each sheet that requires the seal
3. Add digital certification to the cover sheet

Questions that were raised after the presentation included:

1. How to handle multiple certifications for plan sets?
2. Will a specific vendor be required or open to others?
3. Cost issue for consultants?

ACEC proposed to set-up a small committee to work on this issue with TDOT. The issue will be studied further and discussed at the next meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, David Donaho, Rick Gafford, and Jeff Mize volunteered to work with TDOT on a sub-committee to further investigate the technology.

**Agenda Item #3 – Other Issues**

- Subsequent to the meeting, it was discussed that the next Transportation Committee Meeting will be in coordination with the annual ACEC meeting to be held in Murfreesboro in August. TDOT and ACEC will be working together to determine topics to be covered by a TDOT session at that meeting.

Cc: Meeting Attendees

Attachments: Roster of Attendees

Prepared by: Brad Winkler

# DOT/ACEC PARTNERING MEETING

10:00 4/15/10  
7TH FLOOR CONF.

NAME

ORGANIZATION

PHONE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
STAN KING	F&H	399-9090
DAVID DONOHU	SSK	383-1113
Stacey Morris	ETI	901.758.0400
JEFF MIZE	WSA	865.963.4300
Rick Gafford	Fisher & Arnold	901.748-1811
Freddy Miller	TDOT-Design	741-0835
Richard Emerson	TDOT - Ext. Audit	253-4273
Brian Winkler	Long Engineering	221-1131
DANIEL SPANH	RPM TRANSPORTATION	370-8410
Bill Moran	CSE P	770-8662
Tom Clarks	CEA	370-6079
Carolyn Stonecipher	TDOT - DESIGN	741-3217
Jeff Hoge	TDOT ROW/Utilities	741-3196
Jennifer Lloyd	TDOT Design	532-3832
Dawn Pruett	TDOT Design	741-6341
Brian Hall	AECOM	313-0355
BOB DELANEY	TDOT-ETP	741-3339
Joe Carpenter	TDOT ETP	741-2848
Liz Smith (Stewart)	TDOT Planning	932-3200
JEFF JONES	TDOT DESIGN	741-2221
PAUL DEGGES	TDOT	741-0791