

**ACEC/Caltrans DES
Structures Liaison Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2021**

The meeting of the ACES/Caltrans DES Structures Liaison Committee was held by Virtual WebEx Meeting on May 14, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

I. Call to Order

A. Self-Introductions (0:00:00)

Officers introduced themselves virtually.

B. Changes to Agenda (0:10:15)

No changes.

C. Committee Charter Discussion (0:10:38)

Garrett Dekker reviewed the March 2021 Committee Charter (attached in minutes). Purpose of the Committee is to coordinate/discuss issues facing the bridge design industry in California between Caltrans and Consultant practitioners, and to inform about policy, but not to make policy. Added two (2) new members to provide representation from the construction-side of the industry (CM&I).

Sudhakar asked Garrett to put Charter into ADA format prior to distribution.

D. Review Previous Meeting Minutes, 04/08/2021 (0:15:10)

No changes or comments were made to the 04/08/2021 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were finalized and approved.

II. DES/ACEC Updates (0:15:40)

A. General: Tom Ostrom/Shira Rajendra (0:15:50)

Shira Rajendra welcomed the new CM&I members to the Committee, introduced Lance Schrey, as well as new Committee members.

Shira reported on the Governor's Capital Outlay. Workload in DES should be stable over the coming Fiscal Year, and slight growth in DES workload statewide. Caltrans will continue to have A&E Contract utilization at the same levels, with an increase possible in Construction and Inspection utilization.

Shira presented the Caltrans 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan, available online at : <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/risk-strategic-management/documents/sp-2020-16p-web-a11y.pdf>

The Strategic Plan was finalized last year (2020), and Caltrans is now formulating Action Plans to meet the goals outlined in the Strategy Plan. Goal to complete Draft Action Plans by 6/1/2021.

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Strategic Plan includes new Values including Equity and Pride. Shira emphasized that the goals need to be understood by consultants, as supporting members, to achieve the Strategic Plan goals. New goals include Enhancement and Connection of Multimodal Transportation, Strengthen Stewardship & Drive Efficiency (e.g. utilize virtual design and construction tools), Lead Climate Action (e.g. are there adequate escape routes from wildfires?), and Advance Equity & Livability in all Communities (e.g. consider connectivity in underserved communities, sidewalk widths during bridge Type Selection, etc.).

B. Technical: Structures Technical Policies, Technical Research: Kevin Keady (0:29:39)

Kevin Keady reported that Caltrans is in the process of separating out from Bridge Memos to Designers, the Policies (which will be published as STPs) and the Guidance Material (which will be published as Bridge Design Memos).

Notable STPs currently being developed:

- STP 1.3 – Complex Bridges. Will contain requirements for Independent Checks to limit conflict of interest, peer reviews, constructability reviews, project specific design criteria. STP 1.3 is currently nearing the end of the approval process.
 - Mark Ashley proposed a discussion between Caltrans and ACEC to consider implications of requiring a separate Consultant firm perform Independent Checks.
 - Sudhakar Vatti noted that this process is currently being followed on a few recent complex bridges (e.g., cable-stayed bridges, special cases, etc.).
 - Action to set up a separate meeting to discuss. Kevin Keady, Sudhakar, Barton Newton, Mark Ashley
- STP 1.5 – Project Specific Design Criteria and Design Exceptions
- STP (number not recorded) – Strengthening of Steel Girder Bridges
- STP 17.3 – Design of Temporary Structures and Loads on Partially Constructed Bridges
- STP 20.13 – Tsunami Loads on Bridges
- STP 20.3 – Seismic Design Criteria for Bridge Widening. Includes different Action Plans for Major vs. Minor Widening. Minor will not need comprehensive seismic evaluation, whereas Major widening will.
- STP 4.1 – Live Load Distribution using refined methods of analysis. Describes when refined methods are required (e.g., fixed loads on bridges, construction loads; high-skew or girder configurations outside the range of applicability).
- STP 4.2 – Bridges w/ skewed supports. Provides for use of Shear Correction Factors when analysis models do not consider skew.
- 4.3 – Soundwall Dead Load distribution into girders.
- 10.7 – Deep foundations. Maximum total length of pile, requirements for composite action between casing and concrete, min. anchorage between cap and steel piles, inspection tubes for wet construction method.
- 10.9 – Micropiles

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(0:36:31)

AASHTO ballot items 2020 & 2021 are being reviewed. Caltrans completed their review and provided their comments recently.

Caltrans hosted NSBA this year.

Research Program: (0:38:09)

- DRISI Evaluated Proposals for FY 21/22. Geotech/Structures have \$2.9M for 4-years.
- 14 Active Contracts; 9 new Research Contracts; FY 21/22.

C. Contracting Opportunities: Shira Rajendra/Sid Pedaballi (0:50:36)

Sid Pedaballi reported that the Toll-Bridge Analysis contract and South Structure Design Support contract are currently being advertised. Surveying Contract to be advertised shortly. SP&I, Structure Construction and Field Inspection to be advertised in June '21. District 4 Contract (\$27M) in look-ahead report, District 6 Contract in a couple months, not immediate. Water and Wastewater Contract to be re-advertised; Caltrans is looking for additional interest. Transportation Architecture Contract (building design). Caltrans is looking for more interest and participation in these contracts.

D. Local Assistance: Robert Peterson/Andy Chou (0:54:22)

Andy Chou is filling in for Robert Peterson.

Andy reported on LAPG Ch. 6, and Staffing Update:

LAPG Ch. 6 is in final QA/QC review. It will be released as an Office Bulletin soon. It will discuss implementation of each reform and how each reform is applied. LPP will be updated in Jan '22.

DLA resources (subscribe to Email List and Blog, last two links below):

- DLA Website: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance>
- DLA LPP: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/guidelines-and-procedures/local-programs-procedures-lpp>
- DLA Office Bulletin: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/guidelines-and-procedures/division-of-local-assistance-office-bulletins-dla-obs>
- DLA Email List: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/other-important-issues/subscribe-to-dla-email-list>
- DLA Blog "LAB": <http://www.localassistanceblog.com/>

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Staffing: Jeremy Wright has moved to DES. Working to backfill his position in DLA, please continue to work with your District HBP Coordinators.

Mark Ashley asked about additional funding and if there is a way to include funding in Bridge Program. Andy reported that Caltrans did not receive any COVID relief funds for HBP and Safety Program. Mark stated the allocation of funding to Bridge program is something that interest firms that are participating in ACEC. However, the firms do not know how they can influence the allocation of funds.

Rosa Griggs reported that ACEC met with State Legislators to use portions of the General Fund for allocation to transportation programs. Legislative aids were approached and allocation of general funds to transportation programs were discussed with them.

Shira Rajendra added that Caltrans is short of meeting their SF Management target and many bridges are in need of deck rehabilitation effort. Caltrans is working on spending more on deck rehabilitations and many of these projects will be located in District 2 over the next 2 years.

Mark Ashley added that HBP was a federal program and back in MAP21 it was eliminated and rolled into Surface Transportation Program and it was an attempt to provide more flexibility on how to allocate the money.

E. Statewide ACEC Committee: Gary Antonucci (1:07:35)

Gary stated that the Headquarter Committee met in March and below are some highlights:

Design Branch is finalizing a new Highway Safety Manual that addresses the design exceptions. It is targeted to be available in September of this year.

Construction Related - Certification Program (which is Material Testing) training is now online. Recertification test is also available online. Preparation for re-certification test is up to individuals. Cal-State Long Beach have resources available for individuals who are interested.

Construction Related – Construction wants to be able to use consultants for construction management services (including RE).

Small Firms that are under Safe Harbor Rate - This program is under control of Caltrans. Small firms are only allowed to stay under the terms of Safe Harbor Rate for 3 years. ACEC is asking for more information related to this.

Caltrans created SP1 video for public viewing that is uploaded to YouTube.

Related to Funding – ACEC is looking how budget surplus can be used. There is a group called Transportation California that lobbies legislations and focuses on legislative outreach.

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F. Construction Management and Inspection Updates: Mike Francis / Hank Doll /Jon Rohrer (01:13:52)

Mike Francis stated that 10 sessions of winter training have been completed. Next year's topic will be Trenching and Shoring. The Construction Management is in the process of updating and creating several new manuals. The manuals will be available as their process is being complete. Bridge Construction Memos are being updated and re-done. The target is to complete them by end of the year, and they will be renumbered to align with Caltrans Standard Specifications.

Jon Rohrer added that they are seeing a large uptake on proposals and some of them are planned for far out (RFP expected in 2022). Caltrans is facing a resource shortfall as many people are retiring and leaving the State. Caltrans is relying on consultant contracts to counterbalance their needs.

III. Sub-committees

A. ABC (Accelerated Bridge Construction): Gary Antonucci/Dorie Mellon (1:18:17)

Gary reported that the biggest effort is to review the Draft ABC Manual and this group had an opportunity to review the ABC manual and provide comments. The goal is to finalize the Manual by end of this summer. Gary added that there is an ABC project coming up for construction in Sacramento Area. In November, FHWA is organizing a workshop in LA related to ABC and implementing it for the upcoming LA Olympics. A handful of consultants have been approached for participation. ABC Workshop will be the first quarter of next year.

B. CMGC/Design-Build (Lessons Learned): Mark Reno)/Sudhakar Vatti (1:22:34)

Mark Reno stated that a couple of years ago, a Design/Build workshop was held and there is a push to do a similar workshop with CMGC. This workshop will include consultant presentations, and lessons learned. Mark stated that if anyone has any ideas or information, please forward to him for internal consideration.

Mark also added that the last workshop was held in Southern California and the goal is to hold the next workshop in Northern California.

C. BIM (Building Information Model): Doug Dunrud/Bobby Zermeno (1:24:47)

Bobby Zermeno began a presentation for BIM (BIM for Bridge and Structures Polled Fund Initiatives). This presentation was first provided by HDR. This is a 5-year long project between 20 states and collaborative effort between AASHTO and FHWA. This presentation is targeted toward providing what drives the change for BIM base workflow.

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Doug Dunrud added that there are 10 DOTs that are participating in implementation and advancement of BIM0 (Doing CADD only) or BIM1 (Doing 2D CADD) to BIM Level 2 (Doing 2D and 3D CADD with Data attached). The five-year scope and objective of this project is:

- Investigation and Exploration
- IFC Development
- Industry Outreach
- Collaboration and Implementation
- Economic Analysis

D. Technical Subcommittee: Jack Abcarius/Sudhakar Vatti (1:46:12)

Jack Abcarius could not be present for this meeting.

Garrett Dekker asked if revisions are pending to MTD 12-1 (Hydraulic MTD). If so, Garrett stated that ACEC would like to review the revision and Sudhakar added he will follow up with Hydraulic Group.

E. Education Training/Seminar/Webinar: Y. Nien Wang/ Lance Schrey (1:47:12)

Nien stated that the 4/26/21 & 5/3/21 Two-Session Caltrans Construction 2021 Winter Training Seminar went very well. A lot of attendees participated in the Virtual WEBEX event.

Nien added we plan to have a Geotech Webinar event later this summer (date TBD). An email will be forthcoming after the date is confirmed.

Garrett Dekker added that ABC training is scheduled for 1st quarter of 2022.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Friction Testing Updates from METS: Steve Seifert (1:50:34)

Steve Seifert reported that Caltrans is moving forward with their Task Order and finalizing the effort so that DPAC can get a consultant on-board. A Skid Testing Correlation study will be performed. He stated that Keith Hoffman is putting a review committee together and the study and its progress will be presented to this review Committee.

Garrett Dekker asked how many new machines will be added and Steve stated that what they are working on is a prototype.

B. Western Bridge Engineer's Seminar, 9/13-9/16: Kevin Keady (1:52:48)

Kevin stated that Western Bridge will be a virtual format this year. The main advantage is there is no travel cost associated with this year's conference. However, there will be less opportunity for networking. There have been 160 submissions for abstracts for this year's seminar. The goal

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is to have all DOTs and consultants to have some representation. There is an opportunity for pre-recording the presentation. The Q&A portion will be live for all presenters.

Robert Stott stated that there will be 120 presentations at this year's event.

C. Open Discussion (1:57:54)

Sudhakar stated that he got a notification from Headquarters Design that the latest version of the Standard Plans and Standard Specifications will be released in the middle (possibly October) of 2022 and will be only in digital (on-line) format.

Meeting adjourned 1:59:17

V. 2021 Meeting Schedule

February 5, 2021 (1st Friday)
May 14, 2021 (2nd Friday)

August 6, 2021 (1st Friday)
October 22, 2021 (4th Friday)

VI. Distribution:

A. Caltrans:

Tom Ostrom	Caltrans DES	Michael B. Johnson	Caltrans SMI
Kevin Keady	Caltrans SPI	Shira Rajendra	Caltrans PPM & OE
Rich Foley	Caltrans SC	Sudhakar Vatti	Caltrans OSFP/SLA
Roberto Lacalle	Caltrans GS	Sid Pedaballi	Caltrans OPD & SCM
Tim Greutert	Caltrans METS	Robert Peterson	Caltrans HQ/LA
Gudmund Setberg	Caltrans SD	John Lammers	Caltrans SC

B. ACEC Regular Committee Members:

Member 1: Districts 1,2,3,9,10:	Mark Reno	Quincy Eng
Member 2: District 11:	Jack Abcarius	Garrett Dekker
Member 3: District 4:		Moffatt & Nichol
Member 4: Districts 7,8,12:	Y. Nien Wang	HNTB
Member 5: Districts 5,6:	Bobby Zermeno	Cornerstone
Member 6 (CM&I): Districts 1-6 and 9-10 (CM&I): Districts 7-8 and 11-12	Hank Doll,	TRC Member 7 Jon Rohrer, HDR

VII. Virtual Attendees

Rajendra, Shira	Caltrans - PPM & OE
Keady, Kevin	Caltrans - SP&I
Vatti, Sudhakar	Caltrans - OSFP/SLA
Schrey, Lance	Caltrans - OSFP/SLA
Pedaballi, Siddareddy	Caltrans - PPM

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Francis, Mike	Caltrans – SC
Setberg, Gudmund	Caltrans - SD
Kaslan, Erol	Caltrans - SM
Chou, Andy	Caltrans – HQ/LA
Greuter, Timothy	Caltrans – METS
Seifert, Steven	Caltrans - METS
Han, Seungwoon	Caltrans
Burlaza, Chris	Caltrans – Transportation
Wang, Y. Nien	HNTB
Amini, Moe	HNTB
Van Duyn, Michael	HNTB
Zermeno, Bobby	Cornerstone Engineering
Dekker, Garrett	Moffatt & Nichol
Chu, Wellington	HDR
Rohrer, Jon	HDR
Wang, Jackie	HDR
Antonucci, Gary	Moffatt & Nichol
Rende, Gregory	Rende Consulting Group, Inc.
Thuraiajah, Alaheswaran	Earth Mechanics, Inc.
Reno, Mark	Quincy Engineering
Cambell, Richard	Stantec
Ashley, Mark	T.Y. Lin International
Fish, Bob	T.Y. Lin International
Avila, Cathy	Avila & Associates
Consolacion, Benjamin	WSP
Dunrud, Doug	WSP
Newton, Barton	WSP
Syedmadani, Ali	WSP
Griggs, Rosa	Dokken Engineering
Hickey, Jason	Mark Thomas & Co.
Kitzmann, David	WRECO
Koo, Wei	WKE, Inc.
Moran, Eric	Biggs Cardoso
Osterkamp, Tim	Dokken Engineering
Stott, Robert	Caltrop- a TRC Company
Thakare, Jay	Prescience USA
Thomure, Jeff	Jacobs
Yu, Ming-Chen (M.C.)	AMC Consulting Engineers
Guerra, Santiago	
Greg, Lyn	