

***ACEC/Division of Engineering Services
Structures Liaison Committee***

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 26, 2008
TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 am
LOCATION: Caltrans District 06
2015 E. Shields Avenue, Room #145 (Yosemite Room)
Fresno, CA 93726

MINUTES:

I. CALL TO ORDER

SELF INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Self Introductions, District 06 Opening Remarks, and Review Purpose of Committee for new attendees
- B. Walt highlighted the name change from CELSOC to ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies)

II. REPORTS ON TECHNICAL TOPICS

A. New Seismic Hazard Maps

Mark Willian of Caltrans made a presentation on the update to hazard Maps :

Summary of discussion points following presentation:

- Caltrans would like ACEC to provide help to review methodology used to develop new maps
- In general, new ARS curves will be lower (10-15%)
- Some curves will be higher due to probabilistic & basin effects
- Generally, E Type soils and important structures will require site specific curves
- 3rd generation of fault locations will be coming from USGS which will better locate faults
- VS₃₀ will be required in foundation report

- Caltrans plans to circulate a draft at the end of the year, anticipate to publish early next year

Action Item: ACEC to contact geotech specialists (1 or 2) from northern & southern California to help validate and provide an independent review of the methodology used to develop new seismic hazard maps

B. Access to As-Built Plans, Bridge Inspection Reports and Geotechnical Data in CT Sacramento (Rob Stott, Denix Anbiah):

Summary of discussion:

- Rob Stott stated that it appears that sufficient access to as-built information is being provided through districts, but there is difficulty in trying to providing access directly in Sacramento.
- ACEC pointed out that it's very difficult to get as-builts for work on projects without an EA number, e.g. proposal work
- Suggestion to set up FTP site w/ passwords to provide online access to ordinary bridge as-builts
- Barton Newton pointed out that providing access to as-builts online has issues such as security, maintenance costs, and Caltrans needs additional resources to provide this type of support
- Denix stated that Caltrans has an in-house meeting planned to discuss how to share as-built information with the industry

Action item: Wei Koo to work with Denix to identify the issues involved with setting up an ftp site for as-builts

C. Caltrans DES Review Comments Form (Denix Anbiah, Walt LaFranchi)

The new review form was circulated and ACEC comments incorporated. Walt recommended that users of the form keep comments and responses electronic. He also suggested to eventually use web based software to keep comments online for easier management, tracking and project history benefits.

D. Expansive Soil Exclusion Zone (Rob Stott, Jim Davis, Mark Reno)

Caltrans will publish an updated memo in fall of 2008. Dolores Valls has written a memo with some clarifications on the current policy.

Action Item: Caltrans to post Dolores' memo stating that: 1) Caltrans will eliminate the diagram from Guidelines for Structures Foundation Reports 2)

Specifications for either Sand Equivalent or Expansion Index need to be satisfied, but not both.

- E. Barrier Impact Loading on Retaining Walls and Wingwalls (Rob Stott, Denix Anbiah, Po Chen)

Rob stated that Caltrans will update MTD 22-1 to fix typographical error on the units shown in Figure 4 of page 10 (note: the corrected memo has been posted to Caltrans website). He also clarified that current standard plan retaining walls are not designed to carry down impact loading into stem. Caltrans is currently updating standard retaining walls for LRFD and deliberating how to distribute design impact loads into the stem and foundation.

- F. Prestressed General Zone Reinforcement (Kevin Thompson, Denix Anbiah)

Kevin stated that Caltrans doesn't currently have problems with anchorage zone design for standard bridges. Special attention is required for narrow bridges with only two girders. Caltrans has formed a special analysis team to develop an experimental method to simplify anchorage zone design guide for typical box girders. Design guide expected within next 6 months. The new design guide will be an interpretation of, not an amendment to, the AASHTO specifications.

- G. Live Load Requirements for Pedestrian Bridge Structures (Denix Anbiah, Po Chen)

Caltrans Loads Committee is currently looking at the issue. Susan Hida is on an NCHRP committee working to update AASHTO pedestrian bridge guide specifications (expected to be completed next year but longer to be approved). Caltrans current policy is on a case by case basis.

- H. Seismic Design of Utility Openings in bridges (Denix Anbiah, Rob Stott, Jim Frost)

Denix stated that an update of MTD 18-2 will be published this year.

Summary of MTD 18-2 updates:

There will be two classes of utility openings:

1. Failure of utility will not put bridge at risk (phone lines, cable TV, etc.)
 - Use standard openings
 - Non-standard openings may be used with the approval of Caltrans
 - Other codes and standards must be followed
 - No special reinforcing needed for openings that clear girders by 2 feet

- Special reinforcement required for openings that don't meet 2 foot clearance requirement
2. Failure of Utility could put the bridge at risk (Liquid gas lines, large water lines, etc.)
- Opening sized to allow for transverse movement + 2 ½ inches at abutment
 - Hinges must have transverse restraint
 - Same requirement as above for clearance to girders
 - OSMI will determine if utility is high risk
 - Other codes and standards must be followed

- I. Consultant input on development of Revised or Interim Memos-to-Designer, Design Aids and Details (Denix Anbiah, Rob Stott and Mark Reno)

Caltrans and ACEC agreed that there should be one contact person from ACEC side to work with Caltrans to avoid slowing down approval process with too much input from too many consultants. Walt will be the contact person for ACEC.

- J. MSE Wall Connection/Anchorage (Steven Tayanipour)

Issue will be carried on to next meeting.

Action Item: Denix to ask Earl Seaberg about previously released issue letter

- K. Implementation of CTBridge User Website/Discussion Forum (Paul Young)

Caltrans is looking into the possibility of hosting the site. Caltrans resourcing is an issue because the understanding with the release of CTBridge was not to provide software support for the program. Caltrans is also looking into potential of a free discussion blog site. Tom Post suggested that ACEC should look into hosting the blog on the ACEC website and to providing password access to Caltrans employees. Other recommendations should be sent to Paul Young.

Action item: Paul Young or Jay Holombo to contact Paul Mayer of ACEC about possibility of hosting CTBridge discussion blog on the ACEC website.

New technical topic suggestion: Type R Approach Slab Pay Items

Action Item: Wait to add topic to agenda for next meeting.

III. UPDATES

A. ACEC Updates:

Action Item: Wei Koo to update liaison committee charter with new name (ACEC)

1. Invoicing on Caltrans Contracts (Tony Marquez): Suggestions for simplifying invoices have been submitted. A meeting has been set up to discuss the suggestions. Tony will meet with in-house staff and contact District 06 to review and discuss other ideas for simplifying invoices.
 2. Technical Workshop recommendations
 - a) LRFD Analysis Seminar
 - b) Geotech Seismic Maps Seminar (when ready)
- #### B. Project Development Oversight/Update (Denix Anbiah):
1. Looking to reduce paperwork (increase electronic submittals)
 2. Published online QC Guidelines for Local Agencies (contact Denix for information)
- #### C. DES Update (Kevin Thompson):
1. No Prop 42 funding cuts in new state budget
 2. Looking to expand DES service in Southern California
 3. Looking to revamp job rotation program and expand ambassador roles
 4. Expansion of tracking items
 5. District 8 Director position open to non-Caltrans applicants
- #### D. Contracting Opportunities (Tony Marquez)
1. Caltrans has small contracts for the small business industry
 2. Projects are listed on the look ahead report
- #### E. Statewide Meeting Report (Thomas Post)
1. Quality management handbook is under review and nearing approval
 2. DBE implementation due in middle of 2009
 3. New DBE goals:
 - 6.75% race conscious

- 6.75% race neutral

F. Central Region Updates (District 06)

1. Projects are listed on the look ahead report
2. District expects to keep busy due projects resulting from bond acts and other local tax measures

IV. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting December 12, 2008 (Sacramento)

ATTENDEES

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