

ACEC/ITD Highway Leadership Team (HILT)
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2024
3:30 – 5:00 PM
HQ Broadway Conference Room

Attendees:

Monica Crider	Dan McElhinney
Dave Kuisti	Todd Hubbard
Jason Minzghor	Mohsen Amirmojahedi
Damon Allen	Paul Wasser
Jason Brinkman	Tim Blair
Amy Schroeder	Molly Loucks
Mike Johnson	Paul Ashton
Taylor Bothke	Bill Russel
Jesse Barrus	Dave Butzier

New Business

ACEC TOPICS:

1. Legislative/Funding Update

Last Friday was annual budget setting. 53 new PCNs approved. Most of regular budget approved. Strategic funding included and will be available yearly.

ITD HQ facility in question. There's a chance they may go back to State Street facility due to costs of facilities at Chinden campus. Will be at Chinden for at least another 2 years no matter the decision. Will know at end of March.

2. TECM funding update (Amy S)

50 million for additional bonding capacity was not in JFAC budget. Still might see in other chambers. This would yield 850 million more in bond proceeds. Selling third tranche of bonds set next week. Will have about \$350 million left for next and final sale.

There are some projects from the original packet of TECM projects that will be put into the safety and capacity bucket. Will have sold all bonds by end of next year.

Funding for this year:

Sustain bridge at 100 million

Pavement preservation at 200 million

Safety and capacity will take the hit to support additional pavement preservation.

3. Requested involvement from Consultants for Program Delivery Conference (PDC)

Todd Hubbard is the chair. Conference ITD only. Building on ITD core competencies to address turnover. No virtual. All in person.

4. Individual DE Updates and Priorities (DEs)

A main theme for most districts is that they are short on staff and have a limited number of PEs in each district. Districts appreciate the support from the consultant community.

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D1 – District 1 is seeing tons of growth and rapid urbanization. I-90 is their focus. Additionally, working with MPO to do a PEL study for mobility in Kootenai County. This effort should create dozens of future projects. US-95 is another focus for the district, probably another 95 study coming to address mobility.

D2 – Not in attendance.

D3

- Lots of maintenance work not as much design for this year. District 3 is now starting to determine goals and major projects for the next 20 years since most previous major goals have been or are being addressed. Upcoming work includes an I-84 mobility study which was approved from Garrity to the Wye. District is short in engineering staff – staff augmentation is of interest.
- The District doesn't have resources for CEI and will be hiring consultants for almost all contracts. This year, D3 will have over \$100 million of work in each residency.
- For the future, the district will be focusing on partnering with locals. Locals have a big focus on multimodal transportation, including transit.

D4 – CEI huge priority for the district. They design very little in house. The district has over \$300 million of I-84 project right now. D4 is also working on creating a bank of shelf ready projects.

Currently D4 has 4 professional engineers and their materials engineer and traffic engineer are EITs. Additionally the district just reorganized and their group looks more like other districts now.

D5 – D5's focus is on I-15 work. They are working through multiple projects including paving, bridge replacement and completing the system interchange in Pocatello. Additionally, the MPO received a SMART grant and ITD is working with them to look at mobility solutions with that grant.

D5 does a lot of design work in house. They have young staff and many have been trained through an intern program, but there's still lots of turn over. The district has three licensed engineers.

D6 – The district is short staffed and young. Most experienced inspector at the district has 3 years of experience and the most experienced designer has 5 years. Jason appreciates the senior consultants teaching and mentoring young district staff.

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On the project side, the district is work through three major environmental documents: I15-US20 connector and new alignment; Chester to Ashton; and Ashton to state line. There's an RFP out now for Arco to ID falls challenges on US20. Because have such young staff, focusing on the DDIs for construction.

5. Feedback on program delivery (QC/Schedule)

Some struggles with environmental. Board is asking that consultants and ITD staff focus on how to do more for less. Working at a negotiation manual to standardize tasks and budgets.

6. Anticipated Consultant involvement outlook

RFP forecasts were released in January and August 2023. January had 30% accuracy. August was 50% accurate. Solicited REs and others for list of projects. With the high turnover at districts, expect low accuracy. Updating soon.

7. Encourage broader use of ITD-771 and 2359 forms by ITD PMs

New 771 form coming next week. The new form/process will include copying consultants on the package when sending it to financial services. There will be a training at the PDC conference. Holly used to do an agreement kick off meeting with ITD and Consultants, they may bring this back.

ITD TOPICS:

1. LEP Guide (Megan Jahns, Taylor Bothke)

Guidance document and is live. Determining how to implement for each district.

Open Discussion

Mike Johnson has a new role in addition to State Bridge Engineer. He will be overseeing bridge, environmental, and right-of-way as well.

ITD is looking into engineering salaries to try to address the high turnover they are seeing. Looking at creative ways to address.

ITD is working with federal highways to talk about DBEs. Disparity study didn't work as well as ITD had hoped. They are considering adjusting the DBE percentage to 2.1% for design contracts.

ITD is working on expediting contracts. Have received some feedback about CEI contracts as well and will be trying to solicit those earlier, before construction to avoid conflicts.