

ODOT/Industry Leadership Group
December 15, 2006

Highway 35 Emergency Contract Process:

An update on the process ODOT used to award the emergency repair contract to re-open Highway 35 was presented. ODOT solicited bids based on the attached bid sheet which was FAX'd to interested companies to submit a bid. Bids were solicited from a list of contractors at the District office as well as any contractor who called and asked about the project. This process resulted in the bid sheet going out to 12 Contractors, with 10 of those submitting bids (a copy of the bids is attached). The low bid was established by calculating the sum of the three percent markups and the contract was awarded to the lowest total markup.



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This was an unusual circumstance and ODOT is committed to working with Industry to find a better way to advertise and award this type of work in the future. **Luci Moore (ODOT State Maintenance Engineer) will contact Jessica to discuss potential options.**

Engineers Estimate Process:

This item was removed from the agenda as Bob Callaway was unable to make the meeting due to downed trees. **The topic will be moved to our January meeting.**

Small Business Initiative Update:

Jeff Gower updated the group on the status of the small business initiative. The group has identified and prioritized the barriers faced by small business. One of the top priorities to work on is to speed up the time it takes them to get paid when working on ODOT projects. There were three primary initiatives they have asked ODOT to look into.

1. They don't feel like as a subcontractor they get timely feedback from Prime contractors regarding what ODOT is paying for on the monthly progress estimate.
2. They feel like force account payments are to slow.
3. They would like ODOT to investigate paying every two weeks rather than once per month.

The committee has agreed to work on these three topics. For the second item, a subcommittee is being formed that will have representatives from ODOT, the small business community and large contractors to evaluate the options. **Jessica will solicit AGC members for a couple of volunteers.**

Winter Meeting – Agenda Build:

The winter meeting between ODOT and AGC has been scheduled for February 9 at the Salem Convention Center. The group discussed potential agenda topics, following is a list of suggested topics.

- ODOT Construction Program Funding update
- Labor Compliance/DBE program/Workforce Development plan
- Electronic Bidding – Demo from Vender
- Update on new specification book
- Design/Build Program Update
- Steel Escalation Update
- Environmental Compliance Issues – What are problem areas
- Insurance Requirements
- Quality of Plans & Specifications
- Public/Private Partnership

Jeff will work with Jessica and Greg to finalize the agenda and get out registration information.

NOA Topics:

Quality of Plans & Specifications – Cathy Nelson alerted the group that a joint committee between ACEC/ODOT/AGC was being formed to address the topic of improving the quality of plans and specifications for all ODOT projects. A similar group would also work on improving consistency in contract administration between ODOT Project managers and Consultant project managers.

Workforce Development - The question was asked whether or not the workforce development plan was helping contractors get quality folks into the industry. It was pointed out that the numbers to date have been very low and has not resulted in a significant number of people ready to move into the construction workforce. A question was asked regarding how they could get a listing of the individuals who had been through the program and were ready to be employed. **Jeff will get contact information from Michael Cobb and send to Jessica for distribution.**

D/B Stakeholder meeting update – Bob Pappé gave an update from a recent stakeholder meeting. The agreement was that ODOT needed to continue to use D/B to maintain both agency and industry capability. They are looking at developing a simplified D/B process that would be appropriate for smaller projects. They have formed several committees to work the various issues and hope to have suggested changes over the next several months.

Delayed Contract Awards – It was suggested that delaying the contract award could have significant impacts to the project schedule. Industry was interested in finding a way to adjust the contract completion date prior to award of the contract so they would know what they were signing up for. They also suggested that they needed more advance notice when ODOT is asking them to approve an extension to the award time. They typically are given a very short lead time and do not have the time required to carefully analyze the potential impact of the delay. **Jeff will discuss with DOJ and report back at a future meeting.**

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the leadership team is scheduled for January 19 at 9:00 am.