

ODOT/Industry Leadership Group
June 15, 2007

Attendees: (See Attached list)

Contracting Related Topics:

Bob Callaway discussed several contracting related topic outlined on the attached document.



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topics.tif

For item 2c(i), Legal sufficiency review was clarified as reviewing to make sure all bonds and insurance documents were submitted and met the contract requirements. It was indicated that contractors could check the status of where a project was at in the process by calling Vera Wicks. A suggestion was made that it might be simpler if a status report could be developed and put on the web. This would keep Vera from continually getting phone calls on the subject. Bob will discuss with Vera to see if that would be possible.

Under item #3, it was requested that ODOT develop a question and answer tracking and posting process similar to the Design/Build program so contractors would access to all questions and answers on a project. Jeff Gower will investigate.

Another topic raised under this item was that at times they have seen Project Managers sending mailing directly to contractors during the advertisement period, industry was not sure where the PM was getting their mailing list. It was suggested that this was probably not appropriate and will be brought up to the PM's at their next meeting.

Item #4 generated a great deal of discussion. There were lots of questions regarding how ODOT updates their engineers estimates to keep them current with market trends. There was a proposal that ODOT post the engineer estimate prior to bid to help contractors identify whether or not to bid prior to going through the full estimating process just to have all bids rejected for being substantially below the estimate. Bob Callaway will investigate the possibility and develop a response.

D/B Program Update:

Tom Lauer gave an update on the status of the Design/Build program. Bob Pappé is returning to the Contract Administration Engineer position. They have recently hired Jane Lee the Area Manager in Eugene as the new Design/Build

manager. Jane will transition into the job over the next couple of months. The next Design/Build procurement will be bundle 404 which should come out in July.

They are continuing to develop a Design/Build Lite program and hope to have the first project going out this fall. In addition, they continue to explore the possibility of using CMGC on the Willamette River Bridge project. They expect the exception hearing for this process in mid July.

In addition, Tom handed out the attached document which summarize comments they had received from the workforce outreach they had received in meetings with contractors. This summary had been requested at the May meeting.



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Comments.pdf

Insurance Issues:

Ronda Hollis provided an update on what she has found when looking at several projects that required lead or asbestos insurance. In one case she found that the insurance was included in error. The project was being re-advertised and she was going to remove the requirement for the specialty insurance. In other cases the insurance was included because of conservative approach by the project leader or consultant. She is working on further training for these folks so they better understand how to go through the process. In addition Ronda was going to develop a review process that would red flag any projects that were asking for specialty insurance and she would review to make sure it was appropriate prior to going to bid.

Several questions were raised that will need to be investigated.

1. Industry folks did not think there was any striping paint left on roads that had lead in it. ODOT should investigate rather than defaulting to require lead insurance for stripe removal.
2. There was an expressed need for research into the risks of lead exposure when removing steel bridges. It was suggested that the risk was so low that ODOT may be wasting money requiring lead insurance in these applications.
3. Does ODOT really need asbestos insurance . The real risk was for the employees working directly with the materials and they would be covered by workers comp. There would seem to be extremely low risk to either the public or inspection staff.

Apprentice & Workforce Development Issues:

This topic was discussed at a meeting earlier today. Michael Cobb gave a brief summary of the topic. There were some issues regarding EEO compliance, it was suggested that most of the rules around this topic come from US DOL and were not controlled by ODOT. Detailed information will be sent to Greg Miller for distribution to AGC.

A summary of the numbers of individuals in the workforce development program who are ready for work was provided.

Region 1 – 20 People are through the process and ready for placement
Region 2 – 17 People will be cleared as soon as drug testing is complete
Region 3 – 30 People are in process working toward being qualified
Region 4 – Program will kickoff in September
Region 5 – 9 People are through the process and ready for placement

(See attached handout for additional details)



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alliance.pdf

A concern was raised by industry regarding the conflict between the apprenticeship targets and the OJT program. These two program were causing contractors difficulty in moving from one project to the next and needing to meet altering requirements.

Region Construction Advisors/PM Contact Info:

A question had been asked on how much the Region Construction Advisors were being used in addition; industry was looking for contact information for ODOT project managers. The Region Construction Advisors have a monthly conference call to discuss the types of issues being raised to them. Over the last year there have only been a handful of issues that have initiated contact with these individuals. At the May meeting of this leadership group, updated contact information was distributed and Greg Miller was going to put it in the AGC newsletter so people knew who these contacts were. In addition, they will be added to the ODOT Construction Website.

The attached handout was distributed providing contact information for all the current ODOT Project Managers and their assistants.



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Info.pdf

Retainage Update:

Jeff Gower provided an update on the retainage practices. ODOT has modified its practice and will limit the retainage to a maximum of 2.5% of the original contract amount (as apposed to continuing to withhold retainage on added work above the original contract amount) provided the contract is progressing satisfactorily. There still is an option to withhold upto 5% of the value of the work if there are concerns by the agency.

NOA Items:

The following topics that were not included on the agenda were discussed:

- Flagger lights on the QPL: There was a question on whether or not the lighting for a mobile paving operation would be able to meet the new specifications. This will be looked into and a response available at the next meeting.
- There was concern regarding ODOT's specifications for Polyester Polymer Concrete on Bridge decks. The current spec significantly limited competition and was a very high price at almost \$10,000 per cubic yard and there was only one subcontractor who would give quotes for this work. The specification changes that were added by addendum did not open up the field to additional competition. Jeff Gower indicated that he has the Bridge Materials Engineer working on the specification and will solicit industry input into any changes.
- There was concern with some of the new specifications regarding contract deck placement and whether or not the changes would solve the cracking problem we were seeing on concrete decks. It was suggested that a research project be developed to investigate other potential solutions.
- There was a question regarding the specifications and when the specification used the term "or" between to options, who got to select which of the options was acceptable. It was agreed that unless there was specific language that stated the choice was as selected by the "engineer" that the option was meant to be at the contractors choice.

Next meeting:

It was agreed that the **July meeting would be cancelled**. It was also pointed out that the August meeting date was in conflict with the AGC summer meeting. Jeff will get with Greg Miller to select an alternate date. **The next meeting date is set for August 24 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.**

June 18 ODOT/Industry Attendees

Jeff Gower	ODOT
Michael Cobb	ODOT
Charlie Sciscione	ODOT
Bob Pappe	ODOT
Larry Gescher	Slayden Construction
Ron Reisdorf	ODOT
John Weisner	Coral Construction
Greg Miller	AGC
Wynette Genteman	ODOT
Tom Lauer	ODOT
Tim Hendrix	Wildish
Karl Thatcher	Oregon Contractors Assoc.
Forrest Fischer	CH2M Hill
Bob Callaway	ODOT
Ronda Hollis	ODOT