

Partnering Community of Practice

Meeting Notes

Google Meet Virtual Meeting

October 5, 2022 @ 9:00 - 11:00 AM Arizona Time

Facilitator: Nichole Jenks, ADOT

Meeting Purpose:

Partnering Community of Practice members share ideas, best practices and engage in open discussions to develop and enhance partnering efforts to improve the successful delivery of transportation projects.

Roll Call:

Michael Carter	Arizona Department of Transportation
James L "Jim" Szatkowski	Idaho Transportation Dept
Clarissa Martin	Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Matney Juntunen	Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Tonia Andree	Nevada Department of Transportation
Mike Brown	Nevada DOT
Chase Wells	Ohio Department of Transportation - Division of Construction Management
Jason Duncan	TxDOT
Jace Mecham	Utah Department of Transportation
Katherine (Kadi) Bradfield	WYDOT
Kent Ketterling	Wyoming Department of Transportation
Charlie Bauer	Wyoming Department of Transportation

Open Discussion Items:

- Kadi B.: Updates from Wyoming DOT on establishing a new "Wyoming Construction Collaboration Program."
 - Named as such to avoid old perceptions of former partnering programs.
- Jace M.: Utah withholds 25% of mobilization money until the contractor completes training.
- Matney J.: MDT Formal partnering subject to 25% mobilization withholding (Not to exceed \$25K).

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Training Program Information & Updates:

- Utah DOT Jace M.: Working on restructuring the training program to offer several options:
 - Soft skills and partnering culture online training for all participants.
 - Additional training for the different levels of staff involved in issue resolution based on the escalation ladder.
 - Utah Partnering Field Guide updates focusing on measuring partnering effectiveness.
- Ohio DOT Chase W.: Likes Utah's training structure with soft skills for all project team members and differing skill training (negotiation) for those who are directly involved in issue resolution and escalation ladder discussions.
- Texas DOT Jason D.: offers a dispute resolution course for project team members.

Working with industry partners (AGC, Contractors Associations, etc.): Why is it important?

State agencies rely on contractors and the private sector in building projects. Industry partners have valuable feedback and input from the contractors and private sector and have the capability to bridge stronger working relationships.

- **Utah: Jace M.**
 - Utah AGC is a strong supporter of UDOT partnering training programs and hosts the training at their facility.
 - Utah AGC has members that sit on the UDOT Partnering Steering Committee and provide input regarding partnering training and the program as a whole.
 - Utah AGC leaders support partnering to resolve issues quicker, at lower costs and help contractors remain profitable while maintaining a partnering relationship and help each party give each other what they need to succeed.
- **Wyoming: Kadi B.**
 - Wyoming AGC is not in favor of withholding mobilization money based on contractor completing training but did advocate for an incentive program upon training completion.
 - Suggestions: Schedule a meeting with clear expectations from the owner, AGC and contractor PM's.
 - Show up, reach out, follow up and show the benefit of partnering to build trust amongst project teams.
- **Ohio: Chase W.**
 - ODOT and the Ohio Contractors Association(OCA) meet as a "spec's committee" every 3 months with contractors and designers to build better relationships and discuss contractual specs that may need to be revised based on feedback from the group.
 - OCA can communicate what is plaguing the contractors (i.e. Deck cracking that was prevalent in many projects requiring SME to meet monthly with the OCA liaison to discuss causes, outcomes, possible solutions, etc.).
 - Building this relationship establishes more formal interactions with the industry and results in joint efforts with stronger support.

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- **Texas: Jason D.**
 - Each district has a quarterly meeting with the AGC.
 - The Austin Statewide AGC meets the TxDOT Admin quarterly

ACTION ITEM:

- Document and provide feedback on interaction with industry leaders and your partnering program (AGC, Contractor Associations, etc.):
 - Meeting type and structure: Formal, informal, steering committees, working groups, review boards, etc.
 - Significant items of discussion (communication, costs, specs, issue resolutions, etc.).
 - Impacts on relationships and partnering in general (promote or repress, collaboration or division, transparency or agenda driven, etc.).
 - **Is there industry partner representation and support for your partnering program?**
 - **Why or why not?**

Tracking Issue Resolution and Partnering Data: Why is this important?

Partnering programs can be difficult to capture data which supports the effectiveness of partnering. Issue resolution is a process that utilizes partnering principles and culture to reduce claims, avoid delays and ensure quality construction projects.

- Tracking issues related to contract specs, notice, dispute resolutions and timeliness reflects how teams communicate, negotiate and work together.
- Methods of tracking issues at various levels (field, Engineers, Management, etc.).

ACTION ITEM:

- Document and provide a summary of how your agency tracks issue resolution and at what levels:
 - Field crew, Resident/Project Engineers, Consultants, Contractors, Subs, etc.
 - Daily diaries, AASHTO software, other software, etc.
 - What other divisions/departments collect issue resolution information?
 - What information does your agency use and how is it disseminated?
- Can we extract quantitative data from this information?
 - Contract time saved? (Days and % of contract time)
 - Cost savings? (How much and what % of contract amount)
 - Increased safety or innovation (Zero time lost accidents, VE impacts, etc.)

- ☒ ~~Matney and Chase will send copies of slides and forms presented at today's meeting.~~
- ☐ Nichole will work on creating a shareable library of all documents shared within the group.

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WASHTO: What is this subcommittee's responsibility and obligations to WASHTO?

Nichole will reach out to Tisha Clark, New Mexico State Engineer and WASHTO Co-chair to determine what the expectation is and what meeting schedule we need to be aware and prepared for.

- Nichole will email meeting notes to Tisha C. who posted previous notes on the WASHTO webpage. (Check out our Partnering Presentation on the home page: washto.org)
 - Compose a document to capture best practices, lessons learned and ongoing partnering programmatic development, improvement and implementation.
 - Share with the group and determine update methods and schedules.

Closing Statements:

- Montana DOT is appreciative of all the discussions and willingness of others to share information, documents, etc.
- Idaho DOT enjoys joining in to hear what others are doing to implement and improve partnering programs.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need further information or assistance.
Thank you for joining us today.

Next meeting: January 2023 - Nichole will send a date and time poll.

10:55 am: Meeting adjourned