

# Partnering Community of Practice

## Meeting Notes

Google Meet Virtual Meeting

January 10, 2023 9 AM-11 AM Arizona Time/MT

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:

Benjamin Landes	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	Engineering Assistant	benjamin.landes@alaska.gov
Michael Carter	Arizona Department of Transportation	Partnering Administrator	mcarter@azdot.gov
Chad Clawson	Idaho Transportation Department	State Construction & Materials Engineer	chad.clawson@itd.idaho.gov
James L "Jim" Szatkowski	Idaho Transportation Dept	Tech Eng 2	james.szatkowski@itd.idaho.gov
Clarissa Martin	Montana Department of Transportation	Partnering Program Manager	clmartin@mt.gov
Matney Juntunen	Montana Department of Transportation	Partnering Program Managers	mjuntunen@mt.gov
Tonia Andree	Nevada Department of Transportation	Construction Administration Manager	tandree@dot.nv.gov
Mike Brown	Nevada DOT	Manager - Construction Administration	mbrown@dot.nv.gov
Jace Mecham	Utah Department of Transportation	State Construction Engineer	jmecham@utah.gov
Katherine (Kadi) Bradfield	Wyoming Department of Transportation	Construction Staff Engineer	katherine.bradfield@wyo.gov
Charlie Bauer	Wyoming Department of Transportation	State Engineer	Charlie.bauer@wyo.gov

## Agenda Items:

- **Community member updates and announcements:**
- **Discuss the groups goals for 2023:**

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## Community member updates and announcements:

- **Alaska DOT&PF:** Working on developing a new partnering program.
  - Projects are currently in winter shutdown.
- **Arizona DOT:** Arizona has a new Governor and newly appointed ADOT Director.
  - The Arizona AGC has a new VP.
  - ADOT Partnering Administrator will resume ADOT district and industry partner visits this year to identify opportunities for improvement.
  - Partnering research project continues.
- **Idaho DOT:** Idaho is reviewing specifications for partnering.
- **Montana DOT:** Montana DOT hosted a **2 day Partnering Summit** which included owners, executive leadership, contractors, project managers and other project team members.
- The enthusiasm that Clarissa and Matney have for their program clearly resonated with attendees at the summit based on the overall participation and positive feedback (great work you two).
- There were breakout sessions and live anonymous polls throughout the summit which revealed the following:
  - Focus on quality vs. cutting corners on projects.
  - Common goals and commitments from project teams.
  - Host team building events off site to build relationships including golf outings, skeet shooting, bar-b-ques and dining out.
  - The summit resulted in two specific goals being identified as top priorities:
    - 1) Prompt and detailed communication.
    - 2) Bring partnering to the field - involve all levels.
- **Action Item:** Please share the presentation and graphic from the summit with the group.
- **Nevada DOT:** Currently experiencing a lack of buy in from leadership and contractors.
  - Mike Brown, future partnering program manager is working on rebranding their partnering program and including partnering in the specials as a requirement.
  - Nevada has a new Governor and appointing a new DOT Director is a priority.
- **Utah DOT:** A focus group completed a training program review and recommendations.
- Jace Mecham shared the Training Task Force Spreadsheet which recommended the following:
  - "Introduction to Partnering" is part of initial training and includes soft skills training.
  - Looking into creating an online computer based training option.
  - Attendees would register and complete within 6 months.
  - Training would be required at the project supervisor level up to executive leadership.
- Utah AGC supports training and hosts classes in their Salt Lake City and St. George, Utah locations.
- Higher level training is more specific and adapted to project roles for transportation techs, inspectors, designers, resident/project engineers and project managers.
- Executive leadership supports partnering training.
- Training is renewed every three (3) years, acknowledging certified personnel on the UDOT website.
- **Action Item:** Please share the brainstorming spreadsheet with the community members.

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- **Wyoming DOT:** Looking for training facilitators to continue partnering training statewide.
  - Level 1 partnering training is in place within the 5 state districts.
  - Working on drafting Level 2 partnering training this year.

## **Discuss the groups goals for 2023:**

### **Training program development and updates from community members:**

Continue to share updates on training program improvements and opportunities in order to integrate partnering in construction meetings:

- Gather feedback from community members, facilitators, Resident Engineers (RE) and Project Managers (PM) on how partnering is applied in the field.
- Update and maintain field guides to include partnering components.
  - Determine who is required to attend.
  - Are there repercussions for not attending training?
  - Will the project include ongoing partnering workshops to track project progress?
- Develop training materials for RE's and PM's specific to partnering (Partnering in the pre-con).
  - Does training encompass soft skills, negotiation, conflict resolution, etc.?
- Utah recently reevaluated and revamped their partnering training approach.
  - Jace M. shared a preliminary brainstorming spreadsheet.
- Continue to include Training Updates on 2023 quarterly meeting to discuss and share ideas, current challenges, lessons learned and training program successes.

### **Tracking Partnering Data: Why is this important?**

*Partnering programs can be difficult to capture data which supports the effectiveness of partnering.*

- Are states using a scoring matrix to determine the level of partnering and approach?
  - Do alternative delivery method projects include a partnering element?
- Tracking and evaluating partnering effectiveness and application by project teams
  - What methods are used to track issues at various levels (field, Engineers, Management, etc.).
    - ➔ Do you use a monthly performance evaluation/survey tool? If so, what, how, etc.
    - ➔ Do you use close out evaluations/report cards? Track lessons learned?
  - How is the data used? What does it tell you about the value of partnering?
- 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.)
- How do teams recognize and acknowledge milestones and excellence in partnering?
  - Do you utilize a partnering award program?
  - Participation in state or national level award programs? (IPI, APWA, etc.)
  - Use of team building, non-work activities to encourage and strengthen relationships?

**Action Item:** Check out this [Google form survey](#) as a sample of ADOT's monthly project evaluation.

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## Working with Industry Partners:

Some states work closely with agency partnering (AGC, State Boards, etc.) and some share challenges in building strong relationships and support from industry partners.

- Sharing the “Power of Partnering.”
- Utah and Arizona maintain relationships with the AGC in support of industry partners.
- Wyoming has experienced challenges in building a relationship and garnering support from the AGC.
- Continue to track and discuss building stronger relationships and support from local industry partners.
  - What works well to garner support?
    - ➔ What do you do to maintain that relationship?
  - What specific challenges are some states experiencing?
    - ➔ What can be done to address and overcome these challenges?
- [WASHTO](#) Updates:
  - 2022 PCoP Meeting Notes are posted on the WASHTO webpage.
  - 2023 WASHTO COCM Annual Meeting – Missoula, MT March 28-30th
    - ➔ Are any community members planning to attend?
    - ➔ Jace M. to present a partnering break out session.  
(ADOT working on attending and can assist as needed)

**Next Meeting:** April 2023 (Nichole will send a date and time poll)

- Agenda items will include our standard updates and a report out from the WASHTO conference.