

Michigan
State Transportation Innovation Council
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2019, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
MDOT Aeronautics Auditorium

Attendance:

Carol Aldrich (MDOT), Lisa Branch (MDOT), Gregg Brunner (MDOT), Ryan Buck (WATS), Bryan Budds (MDOT), Ted Burch (FHWA), Russell Jorgenson (FHWA), Tony Kratofil (MDOT), Mark Lewis (FHWA), Bob Lindbeck (Alger County), Laura Mester (MDOT), Steve Puuri (CRA), Wayne Schoonover (GTCRC), Brad Wieferich (MDOT)

- 1) Welcome – Russ Jorgenson
 - a) Russ opened the meeting with a welcome statement.
 - b) Russ highlighted three points:
 - September is coming up fast which means a decision on a State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) award will need to be made.
 - Keep focusing on new innovations. Spread the word.
 - Keep the momentum going.
 - a) Tony Kratofil noted there are other innovations to which STIC could serve as an avenue to advance those. It is necessary to become vocal outside of our own groups, so others are aware.

2) Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Rules and Regulations Update – Bryan Budds

Bryan provided a presentation regarding the use of UAS drones, focusing on the following areas:

- Ways to fly UAS drones
- Certification process with the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)
- Size requirements
- Airspace requirements
- Part 107

Both the FAA and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) agree that the FAA owns the airspace in which UAS drones are flown.

Michigan has created the UAS Act. Under this act, UAS drones are not allowed to be flown over prisons, airports and Mackinac Island.

It is highly recommended that MDOT have a policy in place. The framework should include:

- a. Essential guidelines
- b. Points of contact
- c. Direct communication

The use of UAS drones for inspections and scour investigations currently exists. It is anticipated they will be used in more applications over time.

To date, approximately 25,000 licenses have been issued in Michigan; MDOT holds 8 of those.

➤ **Action Item: Carol/Lisa will email a copy of his presentation to all STIC members.**

3) Original Charter Review and Possible Updates – Carol Aldrich

- a) The Charter has not been updated since its origination in 2012. Carol updated the Charter to show the FHWA current template language. It should be reviewed to determine if the right people are a part of the STIC as time has changed. Are there others that should be included?
- b) Laura Mester questioned having a STIC policy to ensure adequate coordination. She also indicated that perhaps Jean Ruestman could join the group with her experience with innovation and the Mobility Challenge. She also suggested that Amy Matisoff would be a good resource and wondered if Carol could reach out to them for their tribal liaison perspective.
- c) Tony would like to see Universities be included to provide their perspective on research-practical application.
- d) Carol noted that we currently do some outreach through Research Administration related to our research projects. How involved do we want to be and in what role when it comes to innovation?
- e) Ted suggested we could learn from other states such as Arizona and Pennsylvania who currently have a good, formalized approach to outreach and ways to track their success. Possible peer-to-peer exchanges.
- f) Steve Puuri previously reached out to Michigan Municipal League (MML) and American Public Works Association with no luck. The Warranty Training program is being developed for two audiences: the first Commissioners, Council members and decision makers would be rolled out in September, and the second will be directed to design and construction engineers as well as field staff which would be rolled out in January. The training method will be PowerPoint modules 5–10 for each audience limiting each module to 30 minutes or less. The intent is that these training programs would be available to all local agencies and they would be stored for those agencies that evolve into utilizing the warranty program in subsequent years. We have not discussed where this information would be housed, however the Local Technical Assistance Program, County Road Association, MML and the American Council of Engineering Companies all may want to have these training programs readily available for their members.
- g) Russ suggested reaching out to the Federal Transit Administration and the FAA.
- h) Tony discussed the Michigan Innovative Transportation Board formation by State Representative Hernandez. If instituted, could this be a resource for communication related to innovations? It will need to be staffed and that takes time and resources. Regardless, we need more transparency as we are currently not doing a good job of letting the public know what we are up to. He suggested we start with obtaining the Charters from Arizona (AZ) and Pennsylvania (PA) for review, then find a way to ask questions.

➤ **Action Item: Carol will reach out to Amy Matisoff. Laura will contact Jean Ruestman and have her contact Carol for more detail. All others please reach out to those you**

feel are interested and bring those names to the next meeting to finalize our decisions. Send those names to Carol to include in the next agenda.

- **Action Item: Carol will research the AZ and PA Charters and send out to all some possible best practices.**
- **Action Item: Tony will reach out to MDOT Government Affairs to see if a meeting can be set up with State Representative Hernandez and possibly other people from different groups.**

4) STIC Incentive Proposals – All

- a) Virtual Public Involvement – Per Ted, this is the one formal STIC proposal that has been received for \$24,000, with a \$6,000 match. We need to document lessons learned and have a best practice guide for both MDOT and the locals. The proposal was sent to headquarters today and he is anticipating a quick turnaround.
- b) JTurn – This will most likely not get submitted this year. Possibly next year.
- c) Cone Penetrometer - Carol received information that they would still like STIC funding in FY2019 so we will pursue it to use the remaining FY2019 STIC funding.

Laura posed the question if Jean's area could use some of the money to provide some lessons learned documentation. Could they have it ready in a couple months? Probably not. Per Ted, some STICs use the money to host STIC Innovation Fairs to demonstrate new innovations. Tony suggested we model ours after another state if we go that route.

Ted noted that they are required to report out every six months, with the next deadline being July 15, 2019. The FHWA will work with MDOT and share with all the STIC members.

Carol mentioned the 2019 National STIC Excellence Award nominations. They application is due July 1, 2019. We are currently struggling with the various requirements and how to meet them, i.e., successes, EEC, etc. There are coordination issues. Ted noted one example of MDOT/FHWA/Local Agency regular meetings which improved communication across agencies. Also mentioned as 3D modeling, Warranty Training program and Electronic Plans. He stressed intent – the need to show how STIC affects deployment of innovation (changing culture, communication). Laura suggested expanding more than just Every Day Counts (EDC) 5, across the state regardless. Brad noted the EDC initiatives are due July 15, 2019 and he's currently working with his counter parts on this.

- **Action Item: Laura will reach out to Jean about this for next year STIC funding.**
- **Action Item: Carol to further investigate the Cone Penetrometer application for FY2019 submittal.**

5. National STIC Network Meeting – October 24, 2019 – Ted Burch

- a. A hold the date email has already been sent out by Ted for this meeting. It was proposed that the September 26, 2019 meeting be combined/coordinated with this meeting, however, there were too many scheduling conflicts. The September meeting will stay where it's at and Lisa Branch will send out the information for the October 24th National meeting and folks can join from their own desks.

- **Action Item: Lisa to send out a meeting notice with registration information to all STIC members.**

6. Next Steps/Meeting – All
 - a. Carol confirmed that the next STIC meeting will be on September 26, 2019. A new location will be researched and shared with the committee once a suitable one is found.
- ***Action Item: Lisa to research meeting locations and update the current September 26, 2019 meeting notice with the new location.***