



**ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2022, 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.
TEAMS MEETING**

Present: Carol Aldrich Art Green Michael Townley
Mark Bott Ryan Mitchell Brad Wagner
Gregg Brunner Dee Parker Brad Wieferich
Rebecca Curtis Michael Townley Kim Zimmer
Mark Dionise Will Thompson

Absent: Jason Gutting Hal Zweng

Guests: Matt Filcek Dave Pawelec Julie Townsend

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes – Brad Wieferich

ACTION: Approved

2. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) new materials and products – Gregg Brunner

A new development sub-committee is being added and setting up guidance.

ACTION: For information only

3. EOC Charter Review (including updated agenda submittal form)

The EOC Charter was revised to include the following members:

- a. Chief Operations Officer, Chair
- b. Bureau Director, Bridges and Structures
- c. Bureau Director, Field Services
- d. Bureau Director, Development
- e. Engineer of Research Administration, Secretary
- f. Engineer of Construction Field Services
- g. Engineer of Transportation Management and Operations
- h. Engineer of Design
- i. State Environmental Manager
- j. Representative Region Engineer (changes every two years)
- k. Federal Highway Administration

- l. Bridge Committee Chair
- m. Pavement Marking Operations Committee Chair
- n. Innovative Contracting Committee Chair

ACTION: Approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. Safety Topic: Driving safely and slowing down when merging with other traffic –
Dee Parker

ACTION: For information only

2. Rest area buildings: Add pump house and operator house buildings to current contract –
Dave Pawelec

Issue Statement – Lack of technical expertise to review rest area building special provisions, pump house buildings and operator house buildings on bascule and lift bridges.

Major Issue(s) – MDOT does not have any technical reviewers with the knowledge to review these building special provisions. Our current policy requires central office review of all special provisions with the exemptions made previously by the Engineering Operations Committee (EOC).

Background/History – Previously rest area building special provisions have not been submitted for central office review and they were used and updated as changes were required or issues in the field were addressed. The loss of certain key employees has drained the knowledge base that allowed central office review of rest area buildings, pump house buildings and operator house buildings.

Recommendation(s) – Nathan Miller already has an as-needed consultant contract to review upcoming rest area buildings, so we are requesting to add pump house and operator house buildings to that contract.

ACTION: Tabled for further discussion with Transportation Systems Management and Operations, Facilities and Design

3. Implementation of an MDOT steel highway structure supplier qualification standard –
Brad Wagner and Matt Filcek

Subject/Issue Statement – Implementation of an MDOT steel highway structure supplier qualification standard (SHSSQS).

Major Issue(s) – Fabricators that supply steel highway structures to MDOT projects are American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) certified, but often are unfamiliar with specific and unique MDOT requirements. Further, AISC's audit has historically not included verification that the supplier's quality management system (QMS) is effectively implemented and maintained.

Background/History – MDOT places a high value and importance on the dependability of suppliers providing steel highway structures that meet MDOT specifications. The Bureau of Bridges and Structures (BOBS) believes an effectively implemented, maintained, and regularly audited QMS is a key indicator of a supplier's ability to reliably produce a quality product on time. Fabricators that supply steel highway structures to MDOT projects are required to be AISC, which establishes a great first step towards quality.

As part of continuing efforts in improving confidence in its suppliers, BOBS has developed a new SHSSQS to add to our growing Supplier Qualification Program (SQP). BOBS launched a Prestressed Bridge Beam Supplier Qualification Standard (SQS) in January 2020 resulting in improved product quality measured as a reduction in supplier nonconformance reports. Additionally, BOBS has successfully performed QMS audits at the project level for the bridge steel suppliers of three unique projects (bridge steel retrofit pilot project, M-20 over Tittabawassee River, and I-94 network arch bridge) over the past four years. The lessons learned from this “slow” program rollout has been invaluable as we work towards adding more products to MDOT’s SQP, which is an objective method for ensuring suppliers are operating a proactive QMS with procedures and processes that help assure consistent delivery of high-quality products prior to the project starting.

Suppliers that implement the requirements of the SHSSQS consistently, will produce and deliver with minimum error, deviations, and rework. This improves quality for MDOT, reduces the likelihood of project schedule delays due to quality, and should provide profitability for the supplier. The SHSSQS builds upon the work of the AISC by raising expectations for compliance to AISC certification program requirements, which already requires suppliers to develop and maintain a QMS. Suppliers must also achieve and maintain certification in accordance with the AISC Certification Program, category Metal Component Manufacturer. The SHSSQS is complimentary to AISC’s certification program and a partnering effort with industry to “raise the bar” by filling crucial gaps due to AISCs limited audits. Further, the SHSSQS will focus on ensuring the supplier is compliant with specific and unique MDOT requirements that is not able to be verified by AISCs auditors.

MDOT has utilized approved supplier lists and approved manufacturer lists for many other products that our contractors select from for our projects for many decades. Requiring suppliers to be approved by MDOT prior to supplying steel highway structures (bridge mount-ed/cantilever/truss sign structures, dynamic message signs, traffic signal mast arms, and high mast tower lighting units) will help ensure knowledgeable suppliers with an effective QMS provide structures for MDOT projects.

Recommendation(s) – BOBS recommends implementing the SHSSQS for ancillary structures and requests EOC support to proceed with implementation.

Status – SHSSQS has been developed, reviewed by industry, and is ready to be published upon feedback and approval by the EOC. Implementation schedule includes planned industry training offering(s) in January 2023 and incorporation into the Structural Fabrication Quality Manual, and reference in the Materials Quality Assurance Procedures Manual.

ACTION: Approved

4. Review of the new draft Michigan Ancillary Structures Inspection Manual – Julie Townsend

Issue Statement – Draft Michigan Ancillary Structures Inspection Manual (MIASIM)

Major Issue(s) – The Ancillary Structures Unit has developed an inspection manual modeled after the bridge inspection manual to establish inspection procedures for all 16 different ancillary structure types.

Background/History – To establish a consistent asset management program for ancillary structures, a formal inspection manual is required. Formalized inspection procedures ensure that all ancillary structures are inspected/evaluated using the same element and component rating scale. A quality assurance/quality control process is included. The document includes procedures for addressing assets with an immediate safety concern.

Recommendation(s) – Recommend that the EOC accept the MIASIM as the official MDOT documentation of inspection procedures for the 16 structure asset types defined within the manual. The manual will be in draft status for a period of one year. At the end of the draft period, any revisions needed will be incorporated and the manual will no longer be considered draft.

ACTION: For information only. Will bring back to the EOC for review in one year.

5. EOC meeting schedule – Carol Aldrich

The yearly EOC meeting schedule is now posted on the EOC website.

ACTION: For information only

**Michael
Townley**

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Michael Townley, Secretary
Engineering Operations Committee

RA:lr

cc: EOC Members	C. Libiran (MDOT)	D. DeGraaf (MCA)
Meeting Guests	L. Mester (MDOT)	C. Mills (APAM)
Region Engineers (MDOT)	C. Newell (MDOT)	D. Needham (MAA)
Assoc. Region Engineers (MDOT)	M. Ackerson-Ware (MRPA)	R. Vandeventer (MITA)
TSC Managers (MDOT)	T. Burch (FHWA)	
L. Doyle (MDOT)	R. Brenke (ACEC)	