

**Michigan**  
**State Transportation Innovation Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2019, 9:00 p.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
**MDOT Horatio Earle Center**

---

Attendance:

Monica Ackerson (MRPA), Carol Aldrich (MDOT), Tom Barrett (Senate), Lisa Branch (MDOT), Gregg Brunner (MDOT), Ron Brenke (ACEC), Ted Burch (FHWA), Tim Colling (MTU-LTAP) (*via phone*), Daniel DeGraaf (MCA), Russell Jorgenson (FHWA), Tony Kratofil (MDOT), Laura Mester (MDOT), Doug Needham (MAA), Jack O'Malley (House of Representatives), Andy Pickard (FHWA), Steve Puuri (CRA), Jean Ruestman (MDOT), Wayne Schoonover (GTCRC) (*via phone*), Christine Simon (Senate), Brad Wieferich (MDOT)

- 1) Welcome – Russ Jorgenson and Tony Kratofil
  - a) Tony opened the meeting with a welcome statement.
  - b) Russ gave a brief history of the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC).
  
- 2) Transportation Appropriation Boiler Plate Language and New Members – Tony Kratofil
  - a) Introductions were made as there were several new members in attendance. Tony thanked the new members for their participation on the committee.
  - b) Tony discussed boiler plate reporting requirements in section 661 of the Transportation Appropriation act.
  - c) Tony discussed various committee activities and how input and insight from both industry and vendors would be meaningful.
  - d) State Representative Jack O'Malley discussed his thoughts that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) needs to be proactive about letting people know about transportation innovations.
  - e) Senator Tom Barrett noted that based on caucus talks, there needs to be a continuous revenue source available for innovative material gathering.
  
- 3) Background and History of Every Day Counts and Mi-STIC – Ted Burch
  - a) Ted Burch showed a PowerPoint presentation about STIC.
  - b) FAST Act, Section 1444.
  - c) STIC was established in support of Every Day Counts (currently EDC 5).
  - d) The committee needs to look toward the future (i.e., better, faster, etc.) and there needs to be deployment of proven technology. STIC can be a focal point for the deployment of that technology.
  - e) There are various options for funding innovation.
  - f) If membership can be increased, it will encourage more innovation, which leads to market successes and promotion of technologies and outreach.
  - g) Ted noted that the Innovator Magazine is a good resource and encouraged members to subscribe.
  - h) Ted opened the floor for questions and answers.
    - i) What is the purpose of the new products and materials report?
    - ii) Who determines what and if something goes to new materials?

- iii) What happens to the new products and materials report?
- iv) Is there a central focal point for sharing information?
- v) Collaboration; do we collaborate with local officials?
- vi) How do we gather information from all available sources?
- vii) Where should ideas be submitted?
- viii) Can MDOT afford to take the risks associated with piloting more innovations?

**Action Item:** Carol will send the link to Ted's PowerPoint presentation to all MI-STIC with meeting minutes.

- 4) New Charter and Other State STICs – Carol Aldrich and Ted Burch
  - a) The current Charter needs updating. A copy of the current Charter was shared with attendees and they were asked to review it, identify any changes needed, and send those changes to Carol Aldrich for review at the next STIC meeting.
  - b) Carol discussed looking at how other state STICs operate. States such as Pennsylvania and New Jersey have a solid, formalized approach to outreach and have implemented ways to track their success. A possible peer-exchange is being considered by Sara Lowry of FHWA (more to come on the peer-exchange).
  
- 5) New Michigan STIC Incentive Ideas or Proposals – All
  - a) Ted noted that the Fast Act expires at the end of 2020.
  - b) Finalized STIC Incentive proposals need to be into FHWA before August 7, 2020.
  - c) Carol stated that information regarding the EDC, STIC and AID is available on MDOT's website at: [https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9623\\_61313---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9623_61313---,00.html)
  - d) The national STIC website lists various STIC projects for each of the states.
  - e) The money must be spent within two years and \$100,000 is available at the beginning of each fiscal year for each state so for 2020 it is available now.
  - f) Doug Needham asked if STIC funding may be used to create a process for electronic load tickets? Tony believes it is eligible but can be accomplished without STIC funding.
  - g) A proposal needs to be in standard format and must include the costs, time involved and the needs of the project. Proposals can come from anyone.
  - h) Tony stressed the importance of transparency and MDOT has a priority for this fiscal year to create an innovation website.
  - i) Senator Barrett inquired about synergizing and bundling multiple projects. Tony noted that discussions on this have already started and gave the example of the initial pilot of bridge bundling.
  - j) Monica suggested it would be helpful if an online innovation report could be generated and shared so others can do the same things.
  - k) Laura Mester mentioned it would be difficult to navigate it. Who would maintain and operate it? Technologies tend to extend beyond the FHWA and MDOT, so a comprehensive system is needed.
  - l) The committee members were asked to think of other ideas and send them to Carol. She will send out an email reminder.
  - m) The EDC 6 call will be coming out in a week or two.

**Action Item:** Carol to send out email reminder about submitting ideas and example application along with MI-STIC meeting minutes.

- 6) Existing STIC Incentives Status – Carol Aldrich, Ted Burch, anyone with an update
  - a) Carol encouraged the committee members to view the website for the existing STIC incentives.
- 7) Scheduling of 2020 Quarterly Meetings: March, June, September, December – All
  - a) Friday mornings or Monday afternoons were suggested as best days for future meetings. Need to avoid the third Friday of each month. The current location (Horatio Earle Learning Center) is preferred.

**Action Item:** *Lisa to research and schedule 2020 quarterly meetings.*

- 8) Questions?
  - a) None
  - b) Tony – In closing, we recognize that growth is needed, but he believes we can accomplish the goals of the Mi-STIC.