

Michigan
State Transportation Innovation Council
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present: Carol Aldrich (MDOT), Lisa Branch (MDOT), Ted Burch (FHWA), Tim Colling (MTU-LTAP), Daniel DeGraaf (MCA), Wayne Harrall (Kent County), Mary Hoffmeyer (MDOT), Tony Kratofil (MDOT), Laura Mester (MDOT), Chuck Mills (APAM), Doug Needham (MAA), Steve Puuri (CRA of MI), Jean Ruestman (MDOT), Christine Simon (Senate), Brett Stanton (APAM), Brad Wieferich (MDOT)

Absent: Monica Ackerson (MRPA), Paul Ajegba (MDOT), Tom Barrett (Senate), Gregg Brunner (MDOT), Ron Brenke (ACEC), Ryan Buck (WATS), Glenn Bukoski (MITA), Joe Bush (MADC), Matt Chynoweth (MDOT), Denise Donohue (CRA of MI), Russell Jorgenson (FHWA), Bob Lindbeck (Alger County) Jack O'Malley (House of Representatives), Andy Pickard (FHWA), Wayne Schoonover (GTCRC), Todd White (MDOT),

- 1) Welcome – Tony Kratofil and Ted Burch
 - a) Tony opened the meeting with a welcome statement.
 - b) Ted highlighted the Every Day Counts (EDC)-6 kick off and the EDC-5 coming to a close for formal activities.
- 2) Innovation Presentation: Carbon Fiber Used in Bridge Construction – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Sweet 16 Award – Matt Chynoweth

Item tabled as Matt was not available to present.

- 3) MI-STIC Peer Exchange Follow-up – Ted Burch and Carol Aldrich
 - a) Carol highlighted the results from the survey. 14 attendees responded. We had an overall great response to the Peer Exchange.
 - i) The following questions and comments regarding the results were noted:
 - (1) There is a need to focus on keeping the momentum moving forward.
 - (2) Should future meetings incorporate the survey results?
 - (3) Should the committee meet more often?
 - (a) Tony suggested that Michigan look at how other states are handling (Wisconsin, Pennsylvania). Pennsylvania provides an orientation packet to new members. He has also seen a cost savings calculator included and believes that could be a helpful tool to include. Carol noted that Research Administration has reached out to Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, but has not heard back yet.
 - (4) Should the meetings be shorter in duration but occur more often in order to keep the momentum going?
 - (5) Is there a need for more accountability (presentations from leads, providing needed assistance, a welcome/orientation packet)?

- (6) Should we hold annual workshops? Arizona currently does this and provides a monthly publication that spans across the industry and highlights recent accomplishments. Tony suggested 30 to 45-minute monthly touchpoint meetings, with two-three workshops offered a year. Invite broader participants to present at the workshops and make them presentation orientated.
- (7) Tim Colling mentioned a paper newsletter is better than the e-newsletters which many of us delete from our email inbox's.
- (8) Steve Puuri highlighted the www.monday.com program as being a useful summarization and project management tool.
- (9) Should we include MDOT communications folks in future meetings? Per Tony, this should be explored.

Action Item: Carol will touch base with Amber Thelen for assistance related to the Monday.com program.

Action Item: Tony would like next year's STIC calendar to be adjusted and see about including www.monday.com to identify project initiatives and progress.

- 4) County Road Association: Local Innovation Subcommittee Report – Steve Puuri
 - a) Steve highlighted Angela Kline of Jackson and her enthusiastic involvement on this subcommittee.
 - b) Ted asked about ways to get people involved with innovation deployment. Who is the contact for Local Agencies and External Partners to submit ideas? Should the counties be involved?
 - c) Tim noted that there should be a link between local and state research which is a topic that will be discussed in the Local Research Board Peer Exchange.

- 5) STIC Incentive Funded Project Status – Carol Aldrich
 - a) We did not spend the entire \$100,000 for 2020 for the first time in several years but as a group should continue to ask for everyone's ideas and proposals related to STIC incentive projects.
 - b) A live, in-person peer exchange event is preferred for the Local Road Research Board, and by delaying it to next spring or summer, this might be possible.
 - c) Steve discussed a future incentive proposal for emergency response/funding, to include MDOT, the Michigan State Police and the Federal Highway Association.
 - What money and documentation do the locals need to complete before an emergency declaration is made?
 - How can it be done with the least impact and timely restore infrastructure?
 - Keep sustainability in mind when working on the proposal. There have been five or six recent emergency events in Michigan where each of those counties requested a main resource to contact. He is hoping to be able to advance the proposal by this fall.
 - Tim proposed a disaster “navigator” and that this mode of delivery is being considered.
 - Carol suggested including Eileen Pfifer from MDOT to give a presentation.
 - Steve mentioned a “toolbox” that is being used on their website that allows you to search by topic.

- 6) Every Day Counts (EDC)-6 Update – Ted Burch
 - a) National Kick off was on September 23, 2020.
 - b) Seven innovations are included.
 - c) Panel discussion occurred with American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)AASHTO and LTAP.
 - d) A virtual summit may happen in early to mid-November and will provide in depth presentations on all seven innovations. Higher than normal participation is expected due to there being no limit on the number of participants that are allowed to attend.
 - e) Something new this year, the virtual summit will have an exhibit pavilion to showcase home-grown innovations. We need a point person by 10/8/20 and they will have until 11/5/20 to upload up to 10 Michigan innovations. **Is there a volunteer?** Let Ted know.

ACTION: Ted would like to send out the EDC Innovation Template along with these meeting minutes.

- 7) Open Discussion
 - a) Brad Wieferich discussed expanding internal MDOT Transportation Highlights. Possibly include external partners. They could partner with locals and industry folks to occur twice a year and would showcase all that is currently being done.
 - b) Carol mentioned the STIC Peer Exchange final report is being reviewed right now and should be distributed by our Dec meeting and the MDOT Innovation website is planned to be released in the next few months and we will hopefully be able to present it at the Dec meeting.
 - c) Tony closed the meeting by reiterating the need to look at reformatting our approach for next year.