

ACEC-INDOT Bridge Inspection Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: November 15th, 2019, 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: INDOT Brookville Sub-district

Minutes Prepared by: Jonathan Olson, BF&S

The following members were in attendance:

Andrew Fitzgerald, INDOT - Chair	Stewart Kline, IACHES (Tippecanoe County)
Scott Minnich, United Consulting – Vice Chair	Michael Vereb, Lochmueller Group
Jonathan Olson, BF&S – Secretary	John Lukac, BLN
Stephanie Moore, INDOT	Timothy Barkey, IACHES (Adams County)
Bill Dittrich, INDOT	Bobby Chandler, Clark Dietz
Rob Coop, USI Consultants	Adam Post, INDOT
Randy Strain, INDOT	

The following members were absent (with prior notification, unless stated):

Jose Ortiz, FHWA	Pat Connor, LTAP
Nate Pfeiffer, INDOT	Jennifer Hart, INDOT

Meeting Summary:

1. Bridge Inspection Manual – Bill and Andy
 - a. INDOT work on changes to Part 1 and 2, and Asbestos. Bill is looking through comments. No major changes besides Fracture Critical. INDOT will release manual changes soon.
 - b. New Federal NBIS regulations out for comment now. INDOT to review by January 13th. This won't affect the current changes being made to the INDOT BIM that are coming out soon.
2. Tunnel Inspections - Andy
 - a. Andy reviewing Tunnel Inspections and Tunnel program. There are only 5 tunnels in the state.
 - b. New qualifications – may be editing/adding letters to bridge inspection number if inspectors take tunnel training.
 - c. Tunnel inspection class is one week long. INDOT is currently in control of all tunnels in Indiana. Consultants won't be responsible for inspecting any local tunnels at this point.
 - d. One tunnel on local system believed to be in Porter County. This structure believed to be in the Bridge Inventory right now. Structures can't be in Tunnel Inventory AND Bridge Inventory. Need to be in one or the other.
 - e. Tunnels are generally defined by vehicular traffic going through structure with portals on ends. Length is not a factor for the definition of a tunnel.

3. Pedestrian Structures - Stewart

- a. Stewart Kline asked if there is a program to inspect pedestrian structures.
- b. INDOT is inspecting all structures over State Roads as a “safety inspection”.
- c. Other pedestrian structures have no FHWA or INDOT requirements, and are typically inspected under contract with local owners.
- d. It is recommended that despite there being no laws and regulations for inspecting these structures, that they still be inspected at a regular basis by the owners.

4. By Laws and Application - Andy

- a. By-laws are up on the INDOT bridge inspection website.
- b. Minutes are not posted on ACEC or INDOT website.

5. Border Bridges – Bill

- a. Annual meeting with Illinois completed
- b. Currently meeting with Ohio – 20 plus structures
 - i. Ohio inspects bridges every year
- c. Need to have MOA on file for Border Bridges
- d. Annual meeting with Kentucky next week – November 19th

6. Load Ratings - Andy

- a. Load Rating Status Update - 94% complete overall. 74% in BRADIN.

7. LPA status and local contracts –Stephanie

- a. Compliance Month Review - Handout of all counties and their compliance months. Stephanie is trying to make sure her records are up to date with regards to which counties are split over multiple months. Some counties could be split, but are not currently. Some are not clear. Please make sure consultants clear up any issues with Stephanie.
- b. Contract Cycle Balance – Very heavy contract load (50 counties) in 2022. Only 6 in 2020. It’s not balanced. Stephanie is proposing a 2 year contract the next cycle to help balance things out. Can’t extended current contracts or have longer contracts because there is a 5 year maximum.
- c. Could also use a 3 year contract to help balance out the even-odd years. Skip phase IIA, and do a new phase I in the 4th year.
- d. Recommend to advertise and contract very early for 2022. Could move up advertising and contracting process a whole year to balance workload. Contract start dates wouldn’t change.
- e. Stephanie wants input on what counties could/would move. Also could do some moving around for winter inspections for counties in Southern Indiana. It was recommended that INDOT talk to all of the counties at their next quarterly report meetings.
- f. Contract start date doesn’t have to be tied to inspection dates.
- g. Stephanie ran query in BIAS and found numerous issues like late bridge inspections, etc. She has contacted some people already about these. Could be load rating reports, or other issues. Stephanie has been bringing these issues up during LPA quarterly reports.

- h. Item 90 – inspection date was one common issue that is not getting updated. Stephanie is struggling to track down each issue. Bill used to send out a mass email to all Admins with a huge list of any issues and asked for a response if necessary. There are two separate dates to update – one is the inspection date, and one is the item 90 date. This is common error to forget item 90.
- i. Supplemental Agreements – She is getting way too many supplemental agreements and they are all different formats. She wants to have to have one format for everyone. She is proposing to take appendix D from the contract with new totals. Recommend standardizing the supplemental agreement.
- j. On new contracts we need to add extra bridges in or a contingency to cover extra work. Contingency was not allowed by LPA director a few years ago (Kathy Eaton McKalip). Possibly could revisit issue with her to help find a solution. Bridges are added to inventory, or bridges need to be added to phase IA or IIA. Predicting how many bridges might be added could be a solution, rather than a contingency.
- k. Typically bridge inventory money comes off the top before construction and other dollars, which was one reason for not wanting contingency in the past.
- l. Randy is proposing task force to address this and to go talk to Kathy. Stephanie and Scott volunteered to do this with Randy.
- m. Boilerplate supplemental is recommended.
- n. Send Stephanie compliance months issues from list. Send her info on Counties that would be easy to move.

8. BIAS Update – Bill

- a. Exporting to excel from query tools has some issues. Can export to .csv file as a workaround for now.
- b. Issues logging into iPad this past week. This has been resolved.
- c. Issues when adding new users in BIAS.
- d. Continue sending issues to Bill, rather than INBRIDGES email.
- e. Carrie (Nichole) is helping with bridge file –she is a contract employee.
- f. They have a new employee that is currently getting trained for BIAS. Sharon (Sherry) Street. She will be the new BIAS systems administrator.
- g. Important to know when a bridge is open, closed, under construction for permitting.
- h. BIAS ERMS link slow. Talking about narrowing search results and speeding up the process.

9. Training Next Year - Andy

- a. Bridge Inspection Conference – March 13, 2020 at TMC (transportation management center)
 - i. Planning on limiting attendance to team leaders to cut down on numbers.
- b. Proposed for 2020 NHI Courses:
 - i. 3 day refresher
 - ii. 2 Week Course
 - iii. S-Brite (Fracture Critical)
 - iv. Possible underwater course

- c. New Federal regulations may propose 18 hours of continuing education for bridge inspectors.
- d. INDOT planning on having underwater team using wetsuits but no scuba. INDOT looking to distinguish between scuba and wading in wetsuits etc.
- e. Email Andy your upcoming training needs by next meeting in February.

10. Other items

- a. Randy - Extended frequency – the current INDOT extended frequency program will go away when the new Federal regulations are enacted. Andy said to continue requesting extended frequency inspections as currently enacted because the proposed regulations are not official and may change.
- b. New proposed Federal NBIS regulations out now. Currently open for comments. Anyone can comment. Recommend saying what you like, not just what you don't like. Comments due by January 13th. Links below
 - i. Proposed rulemaking:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/11/12/2019-23929/national-bridge-inspection-standards>
 - ii. Proposed Specifications for National Bridge Inventory (SNBIS):
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FHWA-2017-0047>
 - iii. Summary of changes presentation:
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/inspection/update.cfm>
- c. Michael Vereb – outdated links to the current LPA boilerplate contract on INDOT's website.
 - i. Current contract can be found here: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2833.htm>

11. Next meeting

- a. February 28th at 9:00am in the same location.