

ACEC-INDOT Bridge Inspection Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: October 9th, 2020, 9:00am-10:20am

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Minutes Prepared by: Jonathan Olson, BF&S

The following members were in attendance:

Andrew Fitzgerald, INDOT – Chair	John Lukac, HWC
Scott Minnich, United Consulting – Vice Chair	Anne Rearick, INDOT
Jonathan Olson, BF&S – Secretary	Bill Dittrich, INDOT
Stephanie Moore, INDOT	Rob Coop, USI Consultants
Jennifer Hart, INDOT	Anthony Marino, INDOT
Stewart Kline, IACHES (Tippecanoe County)	Sharon Street, INDOT
Michael Vereb, Lochmueller Group	Adam Post, INDOT

The following members were absent:

Pat Connor, LTAP	Timothy Barkey, IACHES (Adams County)
Bobby Chandler, Clark Dietz	Randy Strain, INDOT
Jose Ortiz, FHWA	

Meeting Summary:

1. INDOT Bridge Inspection Website – Sharon
 - a. The bridge inspection website has been updated with ACEC meeting minutes back to 2015.
 - b. Scott mentioned that the application is not listed on the website. He will send to Sharon.
2. Bridge Inspection Manual Revisions – Andy
 - a. Manual updates are mostly complete. Should be released within the next month or so.
 - b. New federal regulations likely coming in April 2021.
 - c. Delinquent inspections must be documented in BIAS. BIAS administrator will also need to be notified. Instructions and the delinquent inspection form are in BIAS under the help section. The completed form would need to be attached to the bridge asset that is delinquent. These revisions are required to be compliant with FHWA 23 metrics. If multiple bridges are delinquent, you can send form to Sharon (and list of bridges) so she can bulk upload to multiple structures. Anne noted that this form is not intended for a whole county being late, and we should not be having those issues.
 - d. Bill mentioned that there are some new file locations in BIAS for uploading different types of documents, such as agreements, scour documents, and delinquent inspection forms.

- e. Critical findings – there are new filters to sort status of critical finding maintenance items. An email will now be automatically be generated when a critical finding report is created in BIAS.
 - f. Scott mentioned that major changes to the manual should be discussed, especially if it affects the LPA contracts. Bill mentioned that a lot of the changes were just incorporating past memos.
3. Committee Membership and Bylaws – Andy
- a. The committee reviewed the active committee members. John Lukac has left BLN and is now with HWC. Committee voted to keep John Lukac on the committee. BLN is planning to have Al Wessling send in an application to join the committee.
 - b. Other consultants that might be interested in joining the committee include SJCA, American Structurepoint, JSE, VS, and RQAW. Scott mentioned that we should send out notification to all these firms and see who is interested in joining. The committee can vote on membership at the next meeting. If there are more applicants than spots available, we will have to discuss. Andy was planning on sending out that notification (with the application).
 - c. The bylaws shouldn't need to be updated.
4. INDOT Bridge Inspection Workshop and Upcoming Training – Andy
- a. Two Friday sessions were conducted online for the Bridge Inspection Workshop. Committee was asked for feedback on the presentations. Members stated they especially liked the pack rust, timber inspection, and galvanic protection presentations.
 - b. Next workshop scheduled for January 2021. Topics will include the bridge inspection manual updates and the FHWA 23 metrics.
 - c. Ideas for other training – doing a virtual test bridge might be a good idea
 - d. Proposed 2020 NHI Courses:
 - i. NHI 3-day refresher (virtual) – First week of December
 - ii. NHI 2-week class – hopefully in Spring 2021
 - iii. S-Brite (Fracture Critical)
5. Other items
- a. Jonathan asked about the proposed change of making annual inspections only required for serious condition bridges (rated 3 or less), rather than poor condition (4 or less), as it is currently. Andy stated that this frequency change is not in the current proposed bridge inspection manual changes and it will be discussed at a later time.
 - b. Rob mentioned that the requirement for inspecting 1 bridge every 5 years to remain a Team Leader is not adequate.
 - c. Scott asked about the status of the county compliance month reorganization. Stephanie stated around 50 counties are contracting next year and about half will do 2-year contracts to help balance out the contracting workload in the future. Nothing has been done yet for switching odd/even years and compliance months. Andy said these will have to be discussed on a county-by-county basis. Stewart Kline brought up the fact that

if they do a two-year agreement, they will lose the cost savings of a Phase II inspection and the savings of any bridges on an extended frequency inspection cycle.

- d. Stephanie brought up the inspection of closed bridges and how it relates to the contracting process. Andy stated that if a bridge is closed a quick safety inspection is required to verify proper closure. Bill said if a bridge is permanently closed that bridge should be removed from the database. Federal funds cannot be used for bridge inspections if the bridge has been closed for more than 5 years. Inspections would have to be locally funded after the 5-year mark. To get paid for the inspections, would need to include these closed bridge safety inspections in the contract as a different line item (not routine inspections). For the time being, closed bridges will continue to be excluded from the contracts. Stephanie said that consensus is needed on how to handle before a change is made.
- e. Jonathan mentioned he had one late Notice to Proceed recently. He got it by the compliance month, but only because he was very proactive about it. He has another late one currently, which Stephanie will follow up on. Stephanie will also try to monitor the Notice to Proceeds a little closer.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is set for January 29th at 9am (Microsoft Teams). Andy will send out a meeting invite.