

ACEC-NH/NHDOT Highway Design Sub-Committee



Zoom Virtual Meeting August 10, 2021 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jim Marshall, NHDOT (Chair) Tobey Reynolds, NHDOT Leah Savage, NHDOT (absent) Corey Spetelunas, NHDOT Maggie Baldwin, NHDOT Ron Grandmaison, NHDOT

Brian Colburn, MJ (Vice Chair) Ben Martin, VHB (Scribe) Jen Mercer, GM2 (absent) Travis Wolfel, Kleinfelder Clinton Mercer, Jacobs Linda Greer, Fuss & O'Neill (absent)

These meeting minutes are from the August 10, 2021 ACEC-NH/NHDOT Highway Design Sub-Committee Meeting.

1. Introductory Remarks

Ben Martin volunteered to be the scribe.

2. Review and approve minutes – for May 11, 2021 meeting

The meeting minutes from the May 11, 2021 meeting were formally accepted as final.

3. Design Manual Review by Chapter

Jim provided an update on the Highway Design Manual progress. Chapter 8 has been submitted to Policy and Records for review. Jim noted there has been some delay due to Chris Waszczuk's retirement, as he was the chair. The new deputy commissioner will most likely take over at some point. Jim will continue to usher it along as best he can as there are two more chapters ready to go to Policy and Records review.

4. OpenRoads Designer Update

Bill Casswell provided a brief presentation on the transition to ORD (Presentation Attached).

- a) Some consultants are using it on projects and are working closely with NHDOT to provide feedback. The workspace is available for anyone interested. It's not posted, but NHDOT will send to anyone who requests (DOT wants to track who is using so they can be notified of updates).
- b) NHDOT is currently working with ORD 2020 release 3 and moving toward the latest release (2021 release 1). Bentley advises that once a new release is used that users don't migrate

backward. This will require some coordination with the consultant community, so staff are using the same release.

- c) Bill discussed that a few projects, in-house and consultant projects, are using ORD and MicroStation Connect. At NHDOT, up to this point, only Bill and Eric have been supporting the migration until more NHDOT staff can be trained.
- d) The use of ORD on projects is currently the decision of the NHDOT project manager.
- e) NHDOT has macros to take care of the transition to new software. This helps with level naming conventions, as well as converting linestyles and text. They are available for consultant use.
- f) NHDOT is looking at changes to the appearance of plan sets. NHDOT is trying to go in a direction that the software can be used "out of the box" and the way it was intended, such as the addition of drainage profiles to plans. Bill noted that profiles haven't changed much, but cross sections will look different, with annotation moving to the top of the section.
- g) What's next:
 - i. Once NHDOT staff are trained:
 - 1. Start processing survey in ORD
 - 2. Start having user group meetings (for internal staff and will likely invite consultant community since meetings will continue to be held virtually)
 - ii. NHDOT Training
 - 1. First training session was held July 26-30, next is August 23-27
 - 2. Bentley is providing two 30 hour training sessions
 - iii. NHDOT is updating the CAD/D Procedures and Requirements document. This needs to be completed before NHDOT can require ORD deliverables.
- h) When will NHDOT start requiring ORD deliverables?
 - Coordination has begun to set a date when all new projects will use the new software, and will align with the start of processing survey in ORD. Jim asked if that would be in 2021. Bill said that the end of 2021 would be a reasonable goal.
- i) Questions
 - Clint asked if anyone has been using the software while working virtually? Ben and Brian both noted that they were seeing slow downs, both with network issues, and to a lesser extent processing.

5. Other Discussion items

• Jim asked if anyone was using the new Design Report template. Brian noted that it was a lot of work to develop the document if you are starting it mid project, it's so comprehensive that it is very time consuming on the first pass. Ben was also using it on a project and found the same, it was an effort to develop the document. Maggie noted that in that regard it was a good tool to guide a new team through existing and background project information. Ben

noted that one new element is being able to link to other documents, Ron noted that at some point they would need to be printed (or PDF document created) to provide a final record of the project (in case the link eventually goes dark).

- Jim also asked about using the new checklists. Both Ben and Brian have used the new preliminary checklist and thought it was good. Brian noted that the group had been working on updating the Slope & Drain checklist, but that should probably be paused until NHDOT determines how the new plan sets will look. Maggie noted that Dan Prehemo had met with construction to discuss the new proposed plan format, and to make sure all needed information to construct the project was included. More to come
- Jim noted that Highway Design continues to be short-staffed, particularly for mid and senior level staff. Consensus from the group was seeing an industry wide shortage of experienced staff.
- The NHDOT Highway Design org chart has been updated on the website.
- 6. Next Meeting- September 14, 2021





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