ODOT/ACEC Oklahoma Partnering Steering Committee
June 9, 2026
1:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
In Person and Teams Available

Attendees: *Jennifer Hankins, Josh Johnson, Darian Butler, Sarah Reece, Mike Thompson, TJ Dill, Trent January, Shawn Davis, Justin Hernandez, Daniel Nguyen, Brandon Dudgeon, Katie Brown, Joe Echelle, John Stovall, Amanda Newberry, Jessica Prince, Seth Buchanan, Robert Rose, Don Steel, and Michael Pearson*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM, followed by introductions.

ODOT/OTA Update: TJ Dill reported that ODOT's rebalance process is underway. Due to the lack of retroactive federal funding, available funds are expected to be lower than in previous years. Consultants with contracts nearing completion were encouraged to notify ODOT so projects can be properly closed out. TJ also noted there has been limited communication with legislators since the conclusion of the legislative session, and agencies are now transitioning into interim study discussions.

OTA continues to move forward with ACCESS Oklahoma and its capital improvement program. Key updates were that ACCESS Oklahoma projects continue to advance. Approximately ten capital projects remain active. Additional solicitations are expected to be released. OTA is currently conducting its rebalance process. The OTA Board approved moving forward on Bond Oversight. OTA is preparing for future bond issuances as funding needs continue to grow. Current funding levels are approximately $740 million. OTA is preparing for the next round of funding as provisional funding sources are exhausted. OTA emerged from the legislative session without significant impacts to programs or funding.

Mike Thompson congratulated OTA on the successful naming of the Toby Keith Expressway and noted it as a significant milestone.

Legislature: Mike Thompson provided a legislative update following the conclusion of the 2026 legislative session. Several key committee chairs may face challengers in upcoming elections. Interim studies will begin in the coming months. ACEC Oklahoma continues to provide Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) education to legislators. David Streb continues to lead ACEC Oklahoma's QBS educational efforts.

Working Groups:

- **Report of Admin:** Brandon Dudgeon provided an update. The group continues discussions regarding consistent personnel classifications and titles among agencies and consultants. Greater consistency would assist in identifying key personnel and improve procurement and project administration processes. Mike Thompson reported that ACEC OK is reviewing and updating working group lists. Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining strong civil engineering representation within all working groups.
- **3D Meetings:** Michael Pearson reported that the new workspace was released last month. ProjectWise testing continues. The working group has helped identify consultant needs and implementation concerns. Four additional consultants have requested participation in the group. The group is developing two documents:

- Guideline Review Document
- Modeling Standards Document

Michael also shared the WG has been meeting monthly however MT and Daniel were not aware of the meetings. Michael will begin to make sure ACEC OK receive minutes from the meetings.

- **Construction Management:** Shawn reported that The April meeting was canceled and a new meeting will be scheduled soon. Construction management opportunities may decrease as project volume slows. Consultants should monitor ODOT's six-month list and close out completed projects promptly.

Partnering Conference Breakout Sessions: The committee discussed planning for the upcoming ODOT/ACEC Oklahoma Partnering Conference. Due to venue limitations and available space, breakout sessions will not be offered this year. Instead, topics will be incorporated into the general conference agenda. Proposed conference topics include:

- FAR Audit Updates and New Rate Methodologies
- Asset Plan Update
- Division Engineer or Construction Engineer Panel
- Digital Delivery Update
- Materials/QPL Update
- DBE Program Update
- Alternative Project Delivery Discussion

The current speaker lineup includes:

- Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- The conference concludes at approximately 4:00 p.m.
- Secretary Tim Gatz – Luncheon Speaker
- Joe Echelle – Remarks prior to keynote
- Congressman Kevin Hern – Keynote Speaker

ODOT will draft a conference agenda following the Administrative Working Group meeting on June 17 and distribute it to the committee for review.

Other Issues/Discussion: Jennifer Hankins reported that ODOT has begun work on the 2029 Standard Specifications Book update. While the schedule is aggressive, consultants and industry partners were encouraged to identify specification issues, errors, and recommended improvements for consideration during the revision process. Jennifer committed to sharing information regarding the process for submitting comments and recommendations.

Committee members noted that Type 1A Riprap continues to exist as a pay item but no longer appears within the specifications. This creates confusion when contractors and consultants reference a specification that no longer exists.

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Participants discussed reviewing pay items and specification language to ensure consistency between pay items and the specs.

There was also discussion regarding contractor interest in simplifying or reducing the number of pay items where appropriate.

Members suggested revising specification language to better accommodate alternative project delivery methods. Current language often assumes a traditional design-bid-build process where plans are provided by the engineer. Future specifications may need additional flexibility to address design-build and other alternative delivery methods where plans are developed by the design-builder. Several members noted that alternative project delivery could also serve as a future Partnering Conference discussion topic.

Committee members requested clarification regarding who within ODOT is responsible for negotiating and reviewing utility invoices, particularly when utility coordination costs are included within consultant solicitations. Discussion focused on identifying a consistent point of contact and establishing clear expectations regarding utility-related documentation and negotiations.

The committee discussed scheduling a follow-up Teams meeting during mid-July to finalize conference planning. Potential dates during the week of July 13 were discussed. Members expressed a preference to avoid Friday meetings if possible. Jennifer Hankins will provide available dates and times to Mike Thompson, who will coordinate scheduling with committee members.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM