

## REGION 3 BREAKOUT QUESTIONS – PORTLAND, MAINE

### Questions from Jim Brewer – Kansas

1. What design and project quality results are you experiencing with projects delivered via Design-Bid-Build, Design-Build and/or Consultant Manager-General Contractor?
2. Are lawsuits/claims against your agency, which involve design features, increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?
3. Does your agency have a design squad(s) located at a university(ies) in your state? If so, what is the purpose and is it achieving the intended purpose? What kind of projects do they design, etc?
4. Approximately what percentage of your highway design work is done by engineering consultants instead of in-house?
5. Discuss your in-house staffing and capabilities. Are you reducing numbers (layoffs, buyouts, retirements, etc)? Are you hiring, and if so, what level of quality and experience are applying?
6. What is the dollar magnitude of your State Highway Program? What is the future funding outlook?
7. Regarding flexibility in design/practical improvements/practical design, etc., to what extent are you implementing?
8. What experiences have you had regarding oversize-overweight vehicles at roundabouts?

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9. Is your state constructing more roundabouts?
  
10. What is your experience in implementing the FHWA's "safety edge"? Do you consider it an improvement over your present practice?
  
11. Discuss your experience with post construction BMP's for erosion control.
  
12. What has been your have experience in "detours" for pedestrians and bicycles?
  
13. What level of importance has been given in your agency to accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists?
  
14. When construction contractors use automated machine guidance, who has the primary responsibility to develop the 3D design model?
  
15. When construction contractors use automated machine guidance who has responsibility to provide quality assurance that the 3D model complies to the contract documents?

### **Questions from Michael Kennerly - Iowa**

16. We are just starting to require contractor furnish borrow on projects with a significant borrow need and we are curious about other states experience and any insight they can share about things we need to consider.

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17. ADA Accommodation: Our FHWA Region office has indicated that if right-of-way is required to get in compliance with ADA on curb ramps and adjacent sidewalk then we would acquire it even if we are not acquiring right-of-way as part of the project and we are wondering if other states are operating under that principle.
  
18. We have had ongoing discussions about the appropriate median width on expressways, and the design of at grade intersections on expressways, and we would like to know or get more information on median width in other states and how they are handling the at-grade intersections.
  
19. Our new Director has indicated that he would like us to start developing budgets (hours and costs) for the design effort associated with project development similar to what a consultant would provide and we are looking for states with experience in this area that we could learn from.
  
20. We are looking to bring a consultant on board to perform project management duties for a major project we have under development but we have never done this before and could use any insight or information other states might be able to provide in terms of RFP, etc., to set this up.

### **Questions from Brad Wieferich - Michigan**

21. How is your state handling Buy America provisions during the design process, specifically for mechanical and electrical work (i.e. rest areas, traffic signals, ITS, pump stations, etc..)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
22. What types of performance based specifications, if any, does your department use?

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23. What project management program(s) do you use to track plan development? And do these have the capability of detailed work breakdown structures with task resource/time/constraint allocation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
24. What methods, other than historical bid prices, do your estimators use for refining pay time estimates? And do you have typically compare construction costs to those of surrounding states?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
25. Has anyone created specifications for alternative lighting sources (i.e. LED, Induction, Plasma, etc...)? or have criteria other than AASHTO requirements for evaluation?

### **Questions from John Wright – Indiana**

26. Does anyone use alternate pavement design bids? If the cost between asphalt and concrete is within 10%, we require the materials be bid against each other. We are getting a lot of pushback from LPA's, does anyone have a policy that works well?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
27. Audible pedestrian signals. Our FHWA is strongly recommending that we follow PROWAAG and start installing these as much as possible. Does anybody have a good policy? And are there some audible signals that work better in certain areas and not in others? Or are more cost effective than others?

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28. Sign trusses – What is your strategy for inspecting and replacing overhead sign trusses? The new standards require fatigue to be investigated, this is causing us to replace a lot of our trusses, does anyone have a policy on when to replace their trusses, i.e., if you're only replacing signs and not touching the foundations, do you leave them in place?
  
29. What kind of Pavement drop off policies do you have during maintenance of Traffic? When do you require positive protection like anchored barrier wall?
  
30. What kind of policies do you have with trees in the clear zone? Our LPA's love trees in the green space between the curb and sidewalk, research suggests 3' outside of the curb is a fairly safe minimum.