

## **Oklahoma State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC)**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 1:30pm

Location: FHWA-OK

Co-Chairs: Rick Johnson, ODOT Director of Capital Programs  
Basharat Siddiqi, FHWA-OK Division Administrator

The National STIC Network Meeting was held via a weblink and short OK-STIC meeting took place afterwards.

### **Highlights from the National STIC Network Meeting**

Tom Harman – Director, Center for Accelerating Innovation (CAI)

The proprietary property rule has been rescinded based on EDC-4 dialogue.

A change in AID program NOFO solicitation address situations when something is no longer innovation. There is now a category called graduates and was active just this week. This provides for distinction between federal, state and local applicants and only applies for eligibility for AID funding. This does not change STIC incentive funding.

Tom Everett – Executive Director, FHWA

Colorado LTAP held a hands-on innovation summit – equipment loan concept was highlighted. The challenge is to quickly transfer knowledge and ideas from peer exchanges, lest they go stale. AASHTO (St. Louis meeting) recently recognized 3 DOTs for STIC Excellence Awards. Everett also noted that the community needs to ensure that NBIS regulations do not inhibit drones for bridge inspection purposes.

Harman noted Brian Ness, Executive Director, Idaho DOT, and Chair, AASHTO Special Committee on Research & Innovation (R&I), wants to see more done with communication of research value. Ness wants to treat research as an asset.

Harman spoke about willingness to accept a risk and implored the STIC community to convey a sentiment that it's ok to try things.

Harman noted that R&I is looking at a future strategic program – SHRP not to be used anymore – but will be intermodal and not singly surface focused. He identified the demonstration project program and likened it to EDC for success processes toward innovation. The projects need to share results and must have a champion.

Jeffrey Zaharewicz - Senior Advisor, CAI

The Accelerated Market Readiness Readiness program released a broad agency announcement earlier this year. The announcement uses the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) system and a 5/6 is good to

start with goal of 8/9 when done. This announcement is at FBO.gov (Federal Business Opportunities) and there is up to \$3M available for 7/8 awards.

Harman discussed the next round of the Every Day Counts program - EDC-6. CAI wants to have a theme and may get away from numbered scheme. Workforce is gaining traction, with Advanced Geotechnical Exploration Methods and Unmanned Aerial Systems likely to be in next round.

Sara Lowry – Program Coordinator, CAI, National STIC Network & Incentive Program  
Lowery addressed incentive funds options including peer exchanges to include collaborative peer exchanges among partners and topics, regional peer exchanges, and using Day Zero of the EDC summits for STIC co-chairs to come together and learn from their peers.

The next National STIC Network Meeting will be in April 2020 and the theme will be Research Into Innovation.

The OK-STIC meeting began.

#### **Standing Committee on Construction, Maintenance & Materials**

##### **EDC-5 Innovations**

Collaborative Hydraulics: Advancing to the Next Generation of Engineering – Zac Gutierrez  
Efforts to implement this innovation in-house have uncovered some software issues. The software is hard to use and complicated, but Zac expects this to improve with more use.

##### Advanced Geotechnical Exploration Methods – Matt Romero

Approval to purchase software has been secured.

##### Virtual Public Involvement – Jenny Droscher

MetroQuest software use is moving forward and the renewal for next year is being worked. Great participation with Long Range Transportation Plan survey is being seen. MetroQuest will be used for the transit survey, and a rural community will use it for a specific rural survey.

##### Project Bundling – Louisa Ward

Per Anthony Delce, ODOT has been using this innovation for a while but not tracking benefits; however, he has reached out to the FHWA team for assistance. The Competitive Highway Bridge Program was announced for 34 bridges in Grant County.

#### **STIC Incentive/AID Projects**

##### Development of Standard Drawings for Precast Concrete Drainage Structures – Louisa Ward

The original project has been completed and ODOT is moving into a Phase II of this effort, independent of STIC funding.

Development of Standard Drawings for Low-Cost Bridge Options for use by Local Public Agencies on Low-Volume Locally-Owned Roads – Zac Gutierrez

A notice to proceed was issued to the consultant for standard drawings. No invoices have been received to date.

Diverging Diamond Interchange – Bryan Cooper

Cooper visited the site on October 9. The deck was poured on the east bridge and will be open to traffic soon. He is visiting the site once per month to document progress.

**Standing Committee on Pre-Construction**

**EDC-5 Innovations**

Unmanned Aerial Systems – Jared Schwennesen

The project team is working on standard language for contracts. Schwennesen inquired about the STIC incentive status from the FFY19 funds – approval has not been received from FHWA to date.

**STIC Incentive/AID Projects**

Demonstration of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Using Recycled Tires – Matt Romero

A preliminary video of the project was shown. The video is not considered final knowing other partners have not been included.

**Standing Committee on Safety, Mobility and Technology**

**EDC-5 Innovations**

Weather-Responsive Management Strategies – Marty Farris

Access to predictive software used in RWIS stations has been secured for 2 years. This software will provide unique localized forecasts. ODOT will use this winter season to verify prediction models against actual RWIS station data. This will be used to get better data to the public.

Oklahoma Roads – Reina Wilson

Some changes have been made in the system and are live already. Point closures used to be a manual process posted to the map centrally, but now the software can do this from the field locations. A notification system was developed that can be customized by field divisions to remind them to update the system to help avoid posted info versus actual conditions. The project team is finishing up the reporting system for Media and Public Relations public distribution.

Reducing Rural Roadway Departures – Shannon Sheffert/Huy Hguyen

Two classes were held in September through LTAP.

Use of Crowdsourcing to Advance Operations – Marty Farris/Alan Stephenson

ODOT is waiting for input from Staff on the Waze partnership agreement. This agreement represents a high-level view of information. Waze generally releases their information to the public 15-30 minutes after they gather it. ODOT will receive data sooner from Waze and can incorporate that information into the ODOT system as soon as possible. In return, ODOT shares public camera images and work zone information with Waze. It was noted that is a good partnership for public interest.

Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian – Kyle Stevens

The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office has been engaged with metrics and planning to help engineers in the future. Stevens will speak regarding STEP at the OHSO Safety Summit. The Heavener project is under construction with some issues; however, even though the project is not what was planned, it is still a ‘win’ for STEP.

Standing Committee on Special Initiatives – David Ooten

Accelerating Innovation Deployment in Oklahoma

The SCSI met and are developing a process toward the first innovation day.

The STIC website domain name is being addressed. Formal means to facilitate a website are under discussion.

Daniel Nguyen, ODOT Project Management Division Manager, has been selected to head the Standing Committee on Pre-construction.

STIC Incentive Funds – Louisa Ward

Two (2) projects were submitted to FHWA for FFY19 funding, and one (1) for FFY20 funding. All are pending approval. There is still some FFY20 funds available and the SCSI is seeking input and ideas.

**New Business**

Basharat Siddiqi commented on the Rapid Resiliency Assessment Team and the work done by them as the first one done by FHWA post flooding and the first one done in nation. Siddiqi expressed his appreciation for ODOT leadership support and the work performed by the team.

Zac Gutierrez served on team and noted that members consisted of FHWA office staff, consultants, structural/hydraulics expertise, with specific mention of Darrin Saliba, Scott Armstrong, Leslie Lewis from ODOT. This group toured that state and saw 14 sites damaged from flooding. With data in hand, the causes of damage were discussed and focus was on how to become more resilient from all phases. A final report will be completed in the next few weeks.

Rick Johnson asked about his impressions of overall resiliency. Gutierrez provided his opinion, and not a formal statement from the team, that the ODOT system held up fairly well. Siddiqi commented on the ability for best practices to be shared amongst the group.

The Oklahoma Transportation Research Day will take place on November 5, 2019, at the Reed Center in Midwest City. Contact David Ooten for information if you have not already received the announcement.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in January 2020 at ACOG.