

January 27th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Meeting Location: Virtual

Welcome and Opening Comments

Tara: All right, let's go ahead and get started.

I appreciate everyone hopping on and taking time out of their schedule. I know we've had a lot of winter weather to deal with and ODOT did a wonderful job on the highway. So, kudos, everyone still needs to take precautions. Especially with the cold and everything re-freezing. We do have an announcement to make for the Standing Committee on Pre-construction with Tim Tegler's retirement. Jason Boomer was nominated to serve as the Standing Committee chair. We do appreciate him, currently we do not have any STIC projects or EDC initiatives under pre-construction at this time. But I did want to give Jason a moment to say hello and introduce himself to everyone.

Standing Committee on Pre-Construction

Jason: Hi, I'm Jason Boomer I've been with the agency about 4 ½ yrs. I'm the Assistant division manager under Project Management Division.

Tara: Thank you. We look forward to working with you and appreciate you serving in this role. I'm seeing our previous Chief Engineer Brian Taylor, welcome. Zach, I don't see Souzan so I'll toss it over to you next.

Zach: Thank you, unfortunately Souzan had a conflict and couldn't be with us today. Good afternoon, everyone and welcome Jason Boomer. It's exciting to have you here with us, I'm looking forward to working with you on all the wonderful things to come. I don't have much to add to the group today other than, thank you all for your hard work on these STIC initiatives. I'm looking forward to hearing all your updates today. Also, we still don't have anything new as far as EDC eight goes. I know it's coming; we don't quite know what it's going to look like yet, or what innovations will be involved with that, but more to come. That's all I have and I'll turn it back to you, Tara.

Tara: Thank you, Zach. Like Zach said, we're still waiting on EDC 8 to come out so that we can meet on those initiatives and see what the future path forward will be. For EDC 7 initiatives, we have asked for updates. A lot of those have final reports or have closed out. Some may not have anything to report based on that. We'll go ahead and jump in and I'll toss it over to Matt for these few projects that are going on.

Standing Committee on Construction, Materials, and Maintenance

EDC-7 & STIC Innovation Combined Efforts:

Matt: Good afternoon, everyone. Hope everybody made it through the weather the last few days decently. It seems like our crew's did a wonderful job. The city's struggling, but I think overall our highways look pretty good and we managed to make it back to the building. We can give you guys an update on our internally cured concrete project. I'll turn it over to Walt and he can give us an update on the latest and greatest with that project.

Enhancing Performance with Internally Cured Concrete & Pilot Internal Curing for Bridge Decks

(ODOT Champion: Matt Romero/Walt Peters/ Nairi Matevosyan-FHWA Champion: Ralph Nguyen & Waseem Fazal)

Walt: Good afternoon, everybody. I checked with Dr. Ley from Oklahoma State University, and he told me that he's working on a final report. We're all just a little disappointed that things didn't go a little smoother, but we have hopes for a future project.

Matt: Thank you, Walt, for the update. We look forward to seeing the final report from Tyler. I know there were issues with some of the placement and the tickets. I'm looking forward to hearing what Tyler has to say about it.

Tara: Anyone have any questions for Walt or Matt? Ok, let's move on to the next one.

Matt: We should give a warm welcome back to Bryce Hanlon. He'll give us an update on our Geotextile Stabilization.

Innovative High-Performance Geotextiles for Stabilization of Problematic Roadway Subgrades

(ODOT Champion: Bryce Hanlon - FHWA Champion: Waseem Fazal)

Bryce: For those that don't know, I did leave for two weeks and came back. I have taken longer vacations than I left, but I'm excited to be back. This is the type of stuff that I really enjoy being at ODOT are these kinds of research projects and making a difference. I talked to Dr. Hatami last week about this project. It's a lot of data collection to get comparison values for all these different products. They're getting near the end of it; they have one or two products left they want to test for Tensile strength in the Pay load testing they've been doing. Once they are done testing these products, then they're going to test their AG base without any product. That way they have a baseline comparative number to see the effectiveness of all of these products versus nothing. After that, they're going to start working on determining load reduction factors and equivalent thickness. Right now, they don't have actual results to know what the end game is going to be. They're collecting all this data that'll allow them to hopefully in six to seven months to have everything they need to be able to have time to do their analysis and give us a report and hopefully develop equations and a methodology for analyzing these fabrics for pavement design applications. He also brought up, potentially doing this for geogrids in the future. That might be a good research topic to look at in the future. We don't really use geogrids too much on roadway applications. I know they get used on bridging soft soil areas with major issues, it may be a viable option in payment applications. It'll be nice to compare all these products in the future. Everything's on schedule. It's just a slow process.

Matt: Thank you, Bryce, if I remember correctly, Dr. Hatami said he had some problems getting some of the material. I think he finally got around to getting with one of the companies that was hesitant to be part of this.

Bryce: We got the Mirify stuff pretty easily, then Haynes was all fired up about giving their stuff up because they were the ones that were the trouble. This Winfab company that he's worked with in the past, they didn't want to share their product. All these companies are very protective of their products and their properties, and they didn't want it to get in the wrong hands. Looking at the initial results, WinFab's products are some of the better ones, they may be protecting some secret or something. A lot of this is just getting to this stage, getting the original setup of the cell and the soil box and everything. It took a while but now it's plug-and-go with these different products. What he also said is they have one more WinFab product and then they want to test the H2 RI product, which is not necessarily a strength benefit type of the product. I think it'll show it's probably similar to the 380I when it comes to strength, it also has other parameters that really doesn't affect, pave design. He feels like they got a good system in place now and hopefully, they'll test these other two and then start doing their analysis.

Andrew: The big thing that impacts the schedule is the amount of time that it takes them to process all the material that goes in the box around the geotextiles.

Matt: Thank you, Bryce, does anyone have any questions. Ok, Let's move on to David for the update on balance mixed design implementation.

Increase Testing Capacity of Field Residencies for BMD Implementation

(ODOT Champion: David Vivanco - FHWA Champion: Waseem Fazal)

David: Hello. This is a very simple project; it's basically obtaining equipment. At this point, we have the funds available. We're working on the POs to obtain that equipment. The supplier is already aware of us placing the order soon. Basically, we're just waiting on the PO to be processed. We're purchasing 6 load frames.

Matt: That's going to leave us short. How many as far as the residences go?

David: Eleven more. At this point I think it's good that we do this in a step approach. If we did all 17 load frames at the same time it would be very challenging. In terms of delivery & training it would take us a long time. 6 is good for now, maybe obtain one per project in the future.

Matt: That's good, we're doing the same thing with our new gauges. We don't want to purchase them all at once and then have them all meet their life expectancy at the same time. If we spread out the purchase of these load frames, we'll be in a better position as an agency. Thank you all for your updates and the work you're doing.

Zachary: Have you guys decided on what residencies are going to be receiving those?

David: Not yet. That will depend on the project's letting in March. We'll still have to review projects that are coming, then select the residencies based on the projects. We're thinking for them to be near metro areas, OKC, Tulsa and the idea is for them to have more ongoing projects in the future to obtain more data. We'll define that once we have a delivery date or estimated delivery date. That way we can properly match the start of the project and make sure that we have the equipment here.

Zachary: Thank you.

Tara: Thank you Matt and everyone on the Standing Committee. Next up, it's Safety, Mobility and Technology.

I will say I did talk to Caitlin in regard to Next Gen: TIM EDC 7 initiative as they've turned in their final report and didn't have any further updates, but I wanted to put that out there that I told Caitlin, I would let the group know. But I'll toss it over to Alan to cover the next few topics and projects that are under his standing committee.

Standing Committee on Safety, Mobility, and Technology

EDC-7 Innovation:

Next-Generation Traffic Incident Management: Integrating Technology, Data, and Training

(ODOT Champion: Caitlyn Carolus & FHWA Champion: James Bui)

Alan: Thank you, I'll have Marty take it over.

Nighttime Visibility for Safety

(ODOT Champion: Marty Farris & FHWA Champion: Huy Nguyen)

James: We're at that same point where we finished out the project, but we are still continuing to talk more about making sure we're including more lighting in what's going on around the state. We have done some additional analysis and identified some corridors throughout the state that meet the lighting warrants that we have available to us. We are looking at prioritizing them, how we're going to rank them against major urban areas versus some of the areas that are in some of the lower populated districts. Then we're going to discuss those with the districts to see if there's any other ongoing work in the area, any projects that we could either combine with or if they want to hold off until that's done. Then we can start moving forward with getting some projects together to get them on hopefully by fiscal year 27. We'll start rolling out more lighting projects and then in the following years thereafter.

STIC Incentive Projects:

Transportation AI Projects Team

(ODOT Champion: Lance Underwood & Sam Coldiron & FHWA Champion: Huy Nguyen)

Tara: I'll speak on Lance's behalf, he had to attend a meeting at Gatz request. What's going on right now is we're trying to get the next phase of all the roadway remaining assets into inventory. We're going to go to a live production, hopefully within the first quarter of 2026. In regard to, the right of way legal description conversion, we're still doing some sample testing within Comanche County. Trying to address any issues that are coming up with the deeds and parcels and then continuing the scanning effort. This is one of the big efforts on the back end that the content management team is doing. We have boxes and boxes of historical documents, right now they're working on digitizing and scanning about 200 boxes that are still left. They are specifically paper

deeds. We're still in the testing phase but really want to cut off first quarter, second quarter of 2026 specifically within the roadway and the right of way AI efforts.

Any questions?

Alan: Last but not least, Jenny, do you have an updates for us?

Piloting a Public Involvement Software Platform for Oklahoma DOT

(ODOT Champion: Jenny Droscher – FHWA Champion: William Rowe)

Jenny: We are in the PO process and as of today, we've scheduled our first kickoff meeting for February 9th. Things are moving along, hopefully we'll have things implemented in the next month or so.

Alan: Thank you, and that's all for The Safety and Mobility group.

Tara: Thank you, Alan. I appreciate it.

We've had a little bit of back and forth with Jenny's group and IT trying to get the PO done and of course the authorization for the funding. Fingers crossed the next time we have our quarterly meeting; they'll have quite a few meetings under their belt and be in the training process of using the public input software.

Standing Committee on Special Initiatives

EDC-7:

Strategic Workforce Development & Pre-Apprenticeship Stakeholder-Focused Training Program

(ODOT Champion: Jennifer Hankins & FHWA Champion: Viplav Reddy)

Tara: The next one, Special initiatives, Jennifer reached out and said that she was stuck in a previous meeting, so I'll go ahead and take this one as well. It's a combined EDC 7 activity as well as a STIC project. She informed me today she's still working on the final STIC report. She's trying to update it according to some of the templates we've sent her and getting that going. But on both of the fronts EDC 7 and STIC, a lot of these activities, specifically within those realms have been done.

We're always continuing to try to find different ways Jennifer's group can work with Anthony's group in regards to workforce development. That covers the entire gamut of the agency, not just the engineering side. Again, we're waiting on that pending final report and hopefully we'll have that by the next quarterly meeting.

Viplav, do you have anything by chance?

Viplav: No, ma'am. You covered it well for Jennifer. Thank you.

Tara: Any questions, input or comments for these initiatives and or the STIC projects that we've discussed today?

Wow, we ran through this in record time. We appreciate everyone taking the time getting on here, updating the group, providing feedback and your thoughts. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 27th. We plan to be in-person, hopefully nothing impedes, it'll be nice to see everyone. Maybe by that time, EDC eight has come out we'll be able to have conversations on that front.

And then we'll be gearing up again to start looking at new STIC projects. It'll be at that time of the year to start applications, so keep that in mind. I'll toss it over to Zach to see if he has any closing comments.

Closing Comments:

Zachary: I'd like to echo what Tara said. Thank you for your hard work and thank you for sticking with the STIC group even though we don't have EDC 8 out yet. Your work is very important in helping to develop innovations here in our state. Hopefully by the next quarterly meeting we'll have some new STIC incentive ideas. Thank you again and I look forward to seeing you guys in a few months.

Tara: Thanks, Zach, and if anybody does have any ideas, you don't have to wait for the next meeting. You can shoot those over to myself and Reyna. We can help you prepare the application. Or help with some ideas of what to get ready. If you have thoughts, ideas or anything like that, shoot that over. I'm sure Zach's more than willing to review them as well, but other than that, we'll give you another reminder in the next quarterly meeting and I'm sure we'll poke you again via e-mail. So again, stay warm, I appreciate all you hopping on and will see you next time.