INDOT Update

In May’s Shortlist, we reported on many issues ACEC Indiana was working on with INDOT. Good news on two critical ones:

LPA Fed-Aid: Conflict of Interest: Secured agreement from INDOT that LPAs will be allowed to continue to select the same consulting firm to design a project and perform construction inspection services. (This practice is not accepted on INDOT DBB projects.)

Bridge Inspection LPA consulting contracts: ACEC requested removal of some contract language perceived to commoditize this work, and INDOT responded with the following changes to it (in Appendix D):
1) The CONSULTANT shall be reimbursed the direct non-salary costs for travel reimbursement (travel mileage, lodging and per diem expenses) in accordance with current State of Indiana Travel Policies and Procedures as outlined in Section 4.
2) Travel Price/Bridge was removed from Routine Inspection, Fracture Critical Inspection, Underwater Inspection, Complex Inspection, Element Inspection and Special Inspection. Travel Reimbursement was added to Overall Not to Exceed Amounts by Phase.
3) The CONSULTANT shall submit invoices to the LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY not more than once per month during progress of the bridge inspections. Such invoices shall represent the value, to the LPA, of the work completed during the time period covered per the unit price basis listed above. The CONSULTANT shall attach to the invoice voucher, an itemized summary of each inspection phase showing total work required, work completed and prior work which has received payment. The CONSULTANT shall attach supporting documentation for partially completed work payment. This documentation shall include but not limited sub-consultant invoices, equipment rental invoices and any reimbursable items.

INDOT still requires unit prices for bridge inspections but now allows a lump sum for travel mileage, lodging and per diem expenses.

Looking ahead: ACEC Indiana and ICI have come together to discuss INDOT’s Design Build/P3 projects. One of the issues both sides agree on is to work with INDOT on larger stipends.

ACEC Indiana PAC: What it Means for You and Your Business

ACEC Indiana understands the need to have a collective “voice” with the Indiana General Assembly on important issues impacting the professional consulting engineering firms, such as funding for state and local roads and water infrastructure. Your State PAC only supports candidates for the Indiana House and Senate; it does not contribute to candidates seeking statewide office (i.e. Governor) or local offices.

With critical infrastructure funding issues looming ahead, and QBS regularly under attack, the State PAC Trustees** have approved a record-setting sum of $50,000 for primary and general election campaigns to help legislative candidates who support these needs, more than double of historical spend.

“Now is the time to make our voice heard. PAC funds are the currency of the conversation, and we are serious about this conversation for the 2017 General Assembly,” stated Phil Beer, Chairman of the ACEC Indiana PAC.

“Each firm within Indiana needs to join that conversation by supporting the ACEC Indiana PAC.... either corporately or individually.”

Public Access to Local Government Contracts

Contributed by: Greg Cafouros, Kroger, Gardis & Regas

The Indiana Legislature has amended our public access law to include contracts with local governments, including contracts with design professionals. I.C. 5-14-3.8-3.5.

Beginning on July 1, 2016, all “political subdivisions,” which include towns, cities, counties, and others, will be required to post contracts on the Indiana transparency portal http://www.in.gov/itp/ that exceed $50,000 or 10 percent of the political subdivision’s tax levy for the year. $50,000 is a good baseline, except for the smallest units of government.

If you need further information, feel free to contact Greg Cafouros at Kroger Gardis & Regas. gpc@kgrlaw.com or (317) 692-9000.

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ACEC Indiana Web site now accepts personal contributions towards the State PAC! Help us reach our goal of $15,000 in personal contributions!

Click here to go online and contribute today!

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