

Bridge Group Report for October Planning Committee

CDM Smith was the Firm selected for the bridge preservation project. The contract with CDM Smith was fully-executed on August 28, 2014.

The project kick-off meeting was held on September 12, 2014. Bridge Group members met with CDM staff to confirm project goals and approach, and to review scope and schedule. The next meeting for the study is planned for mid-October. The purpose of the meeting is to review information prepared for a limited number of bridges to allow the Bridge Group to provide input on content and direction of the study prior to completing the study. The contract calls for the consultant to complete the technical evaluation of local bridges within three months (end of the year), and to provide final recommendations and completion of the study within five months.

Also discussed by the Bridge Group at project kick-off were potential early solicitation options, including the possibility of soliciting bridge preservation projects as early as this Fall (for the 2015-16 construction season) using preliminary CDM products. The Group considered the possibility of expediting those tasks which specifically relate to identifying risk of failure for individual bridge members for a select sub-group of local bridges. After some discussion, the Group concluded, and CDM Smith affirmed, that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to evaluate, select, and design projects given the tight timeframe for PS&E approvals.

Several alternative ideas have arisen to more expeditiously identify candidates in the most urgent need of repair. A first possibility, to draw candidates from existing bridge management programs, was offered by the group for further discussion. Another possibility exists to engage CDM in a limited evaluation of only those 39 or so local bridges which have been red- or yellow-flagged or those that are on a Federal Aid route.

It was noted by the Bridge Group that an early solicitation might approach the timeframe of the upcoming TIP update. The Group acknowledged that the decision whether or not to pursue a solicitation should be deferred to the Planning Committee.