

LHTAC/ACEC LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

December 16, 2025 at 3:00pm MT
3330 W Grace St. Boise Idaho 83703

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COMMITTEE ATTENDEES:

LHTAC:

Laila Kral
 Karissa Nelson

Matt Koster
 Kevin Kuther

Scott Wood
 Ken Kanownik

Consultants:

Angela Comstock (JUB)
 Barry Miller (STRATA)
 Gabriel Burgess (CONSOR)
 Brad Ortman (Jacobs)
 Mariah Fowler (Forsgren)
 ACEC Board Liaison:
Whitney Ciani (CHE)

Justin Schwalbe (WSP)
 Jeff Hunter (Horrocks)
 Ty Bardwell (HDR)
 Jeff Werner (DEA)
 Tim Nicholson (Kimley-Horn)
 ACEC Alt National Director:
Tim Blair (JUB)

Nathan Cleaver (Keller)
 Michelle McDonald (Ardurra)
 Joel Grounds (Precision)
 Richard Sanders (NV5)
 Joel Parks (KPFF)
 ITD Committee Liaison:
Ryan Van Leuven (Shannon Wilson)

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Introductions (All)
2. Review and Approve **September** Notes (Angie) **No comments. Angie to send to LHTAC for website posting.**
3. Old Business/Ongoing Reporting:
 - a. Environmental Update – **Karissa Nelson**
 - **Two rulings with open comment periods 1) regarding WOTUS and 2) regarding critical habitat. See attached links and additional information.**
 - **Sarah Hansen no longer at ITD (404 permit processing); new contact Veronica Porter’; USACE beta-testing online 404s, ITD has opted out**
 - **ITD change in procedure regarding CE clearance for geotechnical exploration. See attached additional information; LHTAC will sign and submit**
 - **ITD planning review of 654 form in the coming year**
 - b. LILB Update – **Ken Kanownik**
 - **91 bridges complete; 49 in construction; 96 in design**
 - **75 will advance to construction in 2026 with remaining into 2027**
 - **On-call lists are set for materials testing and public involvement**
 - **Common question regarding whether more bridges will be programmed; Locals are urged to apply for Fed Aid program and LILB will be reviewed mid to late summer to reassess remaining program dollars and any additional bridges that may be added**

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c. Federal Discretionary Funding Application Update – **Ken Kanownik**

- See attached list with one added application as of recent
- BUILD NOFO out as of 12/15 with new criteria
- Looking ahead to 2026, anticipating BRIC, SS4A (maybe) and MEGA/INFRA/Rural NOFOs

d. Construction group update – **Matt Koster**

- Contractor feedback surveys
 - LHTAC has collected contractor feedback on CEI services for 10+ years in Fed Aid CEI; scores range from 1 to 5 (strongly disagree to strongly agree); questions include timeliness of submittal responses, personnel experience, professionalism and availability/responsiveness, helpfulness with issues; considering adding a question about the clarity of plans/design/contract.
 - 5 year average is 4.05/5; 2021=4.3, 2022=3.9, 2023=4.4; 2024=4.2, 2025=3.5
 - Common theme include timeliness of pay estimates; group discussed how this feedback is contextual and often depends on contractor's and CEI's experience and sophistication; they don't receive all surveys back from contractors
 - Sent surveys for LILB (20 returned) which averaged 4.6/5
- Updated CE&I SOW (Nathan Cleaver)
 - Very rough draft submitted to Matt and plans to meet and discuss; next steps include incorporating LHTAC feedback and presenting a draft to the ACEC committee for further review and consideration

e. Fed-Aid Design group update – **Kevin Kuther**

- LHTAC still has not received Federal funding for programs; plan to continue to solicit RFPs and RFIs, but depending on funding, consultants may be selected and complete negotiations before funding arrives; group discussed and agreed that getting these requests out (spread out preferred) and through negotiation is preferred so teams are ready once funding arrives rather than wait for funding to release RFPs/RFIs.
- Please let LHTAC know if you 1) plan to respond and want to be on the email list to receive questions and 2) if you do NOT plan to respond; if you don't ask to be on the email list you may miss critical information/updates; if LHTAC knows you aren't going to submit, it can speed things up for locals. No need to explain why you aren't submitting, just a simple yes or no is helpful.
- Noticing addenda more often; this can affect bid timing; consultants reminded to perform QC and try to catch even small things that may delay bidding.
- Fed-Aid applications open and due in January: Bridge, TAP, Safety, Small Urban

f. Legislative/LHTAC Board update – **Laila Kral**

- General Fund/Strategic Initiatives distributions to locals are likely not going to happen due to projected budget deficit
- Talk at JFAC about amending sales tax transfer

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4. New Business:

a. ACEC State/National update – Angie Comstock

- Monitoring state budget deficit and affect on transportation funding future

2026 Committee Assignments TBD – Committee Chair Seat up for grabs!

Angela Comstock

From: Karissa Nelson <KNelson@lhtac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:47 AM
To: Angela Comstock; Ken Kanownik; Kevin Kuther; Laila Kral; Megan Kautz; Ortman, Brad; Gabe Burgess; Jeff Hunter; Jeff Werner; Joel Grounds; Joel Parks; Schwalbe, Justin; Mariah Fowler; mmcDonald; Nathan Cleaver; Richard Sanders; Barry Miller; Ryan Van Leuven - Monitoring; Tim Blair; Nicholson, Tim; Bardwell, Tyron; Whitney Ciani
Cc: JoEllen Ross-Hauer; Clarissa Lucas
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: ACEC-LHTAC Liaison Committee Meeting #4 (Final)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Environmental follow up from the ACEC meeting yesterday:

Waters of the US Proposed Rule

<https://www.epa.gov/wotus/updated-definition-waters-united-states>

Public comments here (closes January 5, 2026):

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322-0001>

Endangered Species Act Proposed Rule

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/administration-revises-endangered-species-act-regulations-strengthen-certainty>

Scroll to the bottom of the page for public comment. 30-day comment period began November 21.

ITD now requiring a SEPARATE Categorical Exclusion NEPA document for geotechnical investigations (prior to investigation). Documented on the ITD 0649 Programmatic Categorical Exclusions Determination – Minor Project form. Work with JoEllen to get this completed with the 1500 form.

<https://apps.itd.idaho.gov/apps/formfinder2dmz/>

From: Angela Comstock <acomstock@jub.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 12:12 PM
To: Karissa Nelson <KNelson@lhtac.org>; Ken Kanownik <KKanownik@lhtac.org>; Kevin Kuther <KKuther@lhtac.org>; Laila Kral <lkral@lhtac.org>; Megan Kautz <MKautz@lhtac.org>; Ortman, Brad <Brad.Ortman@jacobs.com>; Gabe Burgess <gabe.burgess@consoreng.com>; Jeff Hunter <jeff.hunter@horrocks.com>; Jeff Werner <jeff.werner@deainc.com>; Joel Grounds <joel@precisionengineeringllc.com>; Joel Parks <joel.parks@kpf.com>; Schwalbe, Justin <Justin.Schwalbe@wsp.com>; Mariah Fowler <mfowler@forsgren.com>; mmcDonald <mmcDonald@ardurra.com>; Nathan Cleaver <ncleaver@kellerassociates.com>; Richard Sanders <richard.sanders@nv5.com>; Barry Miller <bmillier@stratageotech.com>; Ryan Van Leuven - Monitoring <Ryan.VanLeuven@shanwil.com>; Tim Blair <tblair@jub.com>; Nicholson, Tim <tim.nicholson@kimley-horn.com>; Bardwell, Tyron <Tyron.Bardwell@hdrinc.com>; Whitney Ciani <wciani@chegeotech.com>
Subject: RE: ACEC-LHTAC Liaison Committee Meeting #4 (Final)

Draft agenda for next week's meeting is attached, along with last meeting notes. I will print agendas, but will not print the notes. Please review notes beforehand and come prepared to share any recommended changes, as needed!

I added a Teams link to the calendar appointment if you are joining us remotely.

Angie

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Angela Comstock

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 4:15 PM

To: Angela Comstock; Karissa Nelson; Ken Kanownik (KKanownik@lhtac.org); Kevin Kuther; Laila Kral; Megan Kautz; Brad Ortman - Monitoring; Gabe Burgess; Jeff Hunter; Jeff Werner; Joel Grounds; Joel Parks; Justin Schwalbe; Mariah Fowler - Monitoring; Melissa McDonald; Nathan Cleaver; Richard Sanders - Monitoring; Barry Miller; Ryan Van Leuven - Monitoring; Tim Blair; Tim Nicholson - Monitoring; Ty Bardwell; Whitney Ciani

Subject: ACEC-LHTAC Liaison Committee Meeting #4 (Final)

When: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Local Highway Technical Asst (3330 W Grace St, Boise, ID 83703)

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LHTAC COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

December 11, 2025

Federal Discretionary Applications for Local Agencies						
Federal Fiscal Year 2025						
Submittal Date	LHTAC Submitted	LHTAC Technical Assistance	Program	Intent (Sponsor)	Amount Requested	Status
1/30/2025	x	x	Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	Road rehabilitation and improvements (City of Bellevue)	\$1,923,600	Not Awarded
1/30/2025	x	x	BUILD	Multijurisdictional transportation plan (City of Glens Ferry & Glens Ferry HD)	\$500,000	Not Awarded
6/26/2025		x	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	Idaho Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Development Project Planning Grant to Develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (City of Jerome)	\$160,000	Pending
6/26/2025		x	SS4A	Planning Grant for the development of a Safety Action Plan (Idaho Falls)	\$500,000	Pending
9/8/2025		x	Rural and Tribal Technical Assistance (RTA)	Designing multimodal improvements on Mountain View Road and Palouse River Drive. (Moscow)	\$586,000	Pending
9/8/2025	x	x	RTA	Citywide Street Rehabilitation and multimodal improvements (Bellevue)	\$1,923,600	Pending
9/8/2025		x	RTA	Planning Grant of a local crossing of the Salmon River (Salmon)	\$750,000	Pending

Federal Discretionary Applications for Local Agencies						
Federal Fiscal Year 2026						
Submittal Date	LHTAC Submitted	LHTAC Technical Assistance	Program	Intent (Sponsor)	Amount Requested	Status
10/1/2025	x		Innovative Financing and Asset Concession (IFAC)	Bridge replacement and financial study of local bridges at risk of becoming poor or posted.	\$1,050,026	Pending

Recommendation: For Council Review