Bridge Conference
Local Agency Forum
November 6, 2014
Moderator: Guy James, Allegany County Highway Superintendent
Attendance: 46
Ground rule-bridges firsts

• Tappan Zee Bridge

Panels from old bridge available around 2017, 50 feet long, (widths vary) ~12’7” or 13’3”, with at least 150 panels. They will be shipped to Albany Syracuse Buffalo (thruway residencies). Detail sheets are available from FHWA and will be posted on conference website. Folks need to start asking for the panels as soon as possible. There is no cost as this is covered as part of demo contract. Questions asked if there would be a window to have crane to help load panels. Panels are for bridge owners only.

• Use EBO for everything?

Complicated to use and folks want to know when the EBO needs to be used. Folks asked for training. Owners need to work with RLPLs in each region. Send email to Local Projects for help and assistance. Folks in Albany may want to follow up with regions (Regions 4 & 5 asked for help). Region 3 had a cheat sheet. Online training is available for contractors.

• Marchiselli Funds

Program administration is going to OSC. Federal aid payment will have Marchiselli included. Only $39.7 million available and there are not enough funds needed to match all federal aid. NYSDOT will keep trying to reimburse agencies. Need to review capital program and also need to keep projects moving forward. There is a 2 year limit to get an agreement.

If no Marchiselli funds are available for a project this year, NYSDOT will try to reimburse some next year and funds are available if contract is still open. Questions asked; should County Association be lobbying for more funds as Marchiselli funding is short of need.

OpenBook NY (http://www.openbooknewyork.com/) is place to review status of agreements.

What reports are needed is available from Local Projects and should not be different than what has been required in the past.

• Preservation (by Rensselaer County)

What qualifies as bridge preservation? Replacing a deck could go both ways. Replacing superstructure does not count (except prestressed boxes). Jack arches are case by case. Some folks would like to see a list of what counts.

NYSDOT is just trying to get more service life. Studies are being done by some MPOs.
ROW over canal project. Do you or don't you?

NYSDOT just wants to know if there is an agreement. The key is to know what will done moving forward. There can be an issue doing work off public lands with public funds.

BDIS - Bridge Data Inventory System

Expected to go live around January 2015. Diane Kenneally offered that NYSDOT could do training at County winter meeting with a possible follow up at Highway School. For NYSDOT ONLY, the data needed includes large culverts (> 5’). Software is being written by Agile Assets and is web-based.

2 bridges got load posted on state system and tickets thrown out (Tim Hens -).

Was told tickets were thrown out due to lack of detour on Federal truck route. Attendees asked NYSDOT to follow up.

Utility agreements

Some utilities will not sign and delays occur. Owners should get utility to sign before project starts. Agencies can ask folks to move out of the entire ROW in 30 days or send a letter to the PSC to help apply pressure to get things moving. Owners should have signature before starting construction.

Repair on prestressed bridge and tried to have flag removed

Local Region told Niagara County they do not repair those bridges, but Rich Marchione mentioned that some limited repairs are done. Word needs to get out on what is done and what can be repaired.

CHIPS

Requirements for canceled checks is new and in some cases there is only a few days between approval by the board and the submittal date. According to NYSDOT, agencies just need to show reimbursement (electronic funds, credit card statement, ...). Summary forms are available to help reduce paperwork. Email sent to all municipalities. New forms appears to be more time consuming (2 weeks vs 2 days before). Discussion ensued. County feedback was that they had good procedures.

Superloads on bridge

Ontario County was asking what others do for superload vehicles. Genesee County has a superload permit system. It is on the County Highway list serv. City of Rochester does a level 1 review for the routes. Some NYSDOT Regions have provided assistance.

Bridge Maintenance request has 24 year painting cycle.

Need to check actual number as 24 years is way too long. How much money is available was asked? Discussion ensued.

Guy thanked Rich Marchione, Diane Kenneally, Don Sweezy, and Mary Anne Mariotti for coming and answering questions.