



# Construction Newsletter

Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Headquarters Construction Division

## From the Director



By Lori Lange, P.E.

In the Construction Division, we strive for the process of improvement to never become stagnate. In the last few years, we have implemented three new initiatives to assist in developing best practices to continually improve our projects in Development and Construction. These include:

- Constructability Reviews – Developed in 2016; 16 reviews have been held throughout the state utilizing expertise both inside and outside the Department to improve project quality, minimize potential change orders during construction, and provide a buildable and biddable construction bid package. Participation in the review by contractors is voluntary, and non-compensable. Contractors meet with designers, utility owners, and stakeholders to vet common items such as project timing and phasing, constructability, utility relocation and coordination with other work, railroad coordination and crane placement. More information can also be found on the web-site [here](#). The program’s success is directly related to the Department and Industry’s partnership and commitment to successful projects.
- 3-D Consultant Reviews – Developed in 2017; 2 reviews have been held utilizing 3-D modeling to assist in mitigating utility conflicts. The intent of the reviews are to ensure all functional areas of the project do not conflict with each other impacting the critical path and cost of the project. Experienced construction personnel are paired with functional area designers to assess high risk areas. SUE, GPR, modeling programs, and updated field survey is used to mitigate risks.
- Utility On-Call Contracts – Recently, the Construction Division established utility on-call construction contracts providing coordination services for a wide range of projects; from new starts to those under construction. The intent of the contract is to assist Department personnel in mitigating the planned sequence of relocation work and deconfliction early in the process. This contract provides an opportunity to further incorporate best practices into Department procedures.

As we continue to develop and find areas to improve, we hope others will continue to do the same. We appreciate everyone’s efforts over the past year to support these new initiatives.

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## Upcoming Lettings

- December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# MemFix4



Originally built in the late 50s and early 60s, the bridges of Poplar Avenue, Norfolk Southern Railroad, and Park Avenue over Interstate 240 in east Memphis have structural deterioration and deficiencies that needed to be addressed. Recent construction on I-240 further exposed the needs of each bridge.

MemFix4 is a \$54 million bridge rehabilitation project to replace or repair the four bridges using an innovative process called Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC). ABC requires short-term, total road closures to allow crews the space to do their jobs and the freedom to work around the clock. The bridge work and the temporary closures will also allow crews to complete the planned widening of I-240 along this section of interstate.

This project provides a safer commute for the roughly 50,000 vehicles that travel this section of Poplar and Park Avenues and the trains that travel this section of the Norfolk Southern Railroad every day, as well as the 138,000 motorists who travel under the bridges on I-240.

Special thanks to the MemFix4 team for all their hardwork on this project! Those pictured in **Figure 1** from left to right are Justin Brewer (Operations Technician Senior), Vincent Laws (Operations Technician Supervisor), Marcus Smith (Operations Technician), Will Nowlin (TRC Inspector), Michael Welch (R4 - Director of Operations), Stephen Morgan (Operations District Supervisor), Kenny Gunn (Buchart Horn Inspector), Jay Armstrong (Operations District Specialist), Houston Walker (Assist. Director Structures Division), Mo Osman (Operations District Manager), Brandon Akins (Operations District Engineer).



## Staff Additions

**Chuck Graves** is a graduate of the University of Alabama-Huntsville with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and has many years of construction experience with both TDOT and ALDOT. Since joining the Department in 1998, Chuck has worked at Region 3 as a project supervisor, an Assistant Construction Manager, Construction Manager, and as a Transportation Manager. He has recently taken a position with HQ Construction as a Transportation Manager 2 with the responsibilities of managing TDOT's Standard Specifications, policies and procedures for Road and Bridge Construction and working with the AASHTO Committee on Construction as a liaison in regards to quality in construction, policies, procedures, specifications, and best practices.



# Business Development

By Jamie Waller, P.E.

Reporting directly to the Assistant Chief Engineers in the Regions, the Business Development group has been created to ensure, develop and employ consistent statewide processes, technology, innovation, train staff and utilize department data effectively. The responsibilities of the Business Development team include: (1) System Development and implementation (daily work report application, Adobe Sign for change orders, Job Box, E-Plans/PlanGrid, AASHTOWare Project Civil Rights and Labor, etc.), (2) System Administration and Maintenance (AASHTOWare Project SiteManager Construction/Materials/LIMS, Construction Management Server, Maintenance Management System, Maintenance Quality Assurance Application), (3) Data Analytics (Adhoc reporting, Business Object Enterprise reporting), (4) Training and (5) Project Closeout.

The Transportation Manager(s) (TM2) that will be leading each regional team include: Jay Rosen (Region 1), Gwen Whittaker (Region 2), Crystal Abbott (Region 3) and Kyle Springer (Region 4).

The Construction Division looks forward to working with this team to improve core processes and streamline business activities.



**Jay Rosen**  
Region 1



**Gwen Whittaker**  
Region 2



**Crystal Abbott**  
Region 3



**Kyle Springer**  
Region 4

## Letting the Numbers

### 2018 Letting Contract Totals:

- Prior to the August letting, this year 243 contracts were awarded for \$497,339,689.17
- In the August Letting, 29 contracts were awarded for \$100,930,403.60
- In September, a Special Letting was held awarding 1 contract for \$730,080.00
- In the October Letting, 27 contracts were awarded for \$154,824,381.73
- In the November Letting, 34 contracts were awarded for \$12,691,829.63
- In November, a Special Letting was held awarding 2 contracts for \$10,611,724.51

### Comparing the Numbers...

After the October letting in 2017, a total of 312 contracts have been awarded summing to \$689,309,109.45.

In comparison, this year we have awarded 336 contracts for a total of \$777,128,108.64.

