

## **Bridge Construction De-Briefing Session**

Often opportunities for continual improvement in the quality and constructibility of WSDOT and Local Agency design projects are missed because lessons learned during construction are not routinely communicated to designers. This can cause a repeat of field problems, cost change orders, and the failure to capture valuable ideas.

The purpose of the structure construction debrief meeting is to identify ways to continually improve structure plans, construction documents, construction methods, and processes so as to enhance our ability to efficiently construct quality structures. We want to get a better product for less cost, and to eliminate the repeat of field problems, and reduce changes. Designers and Contractors benefit from receiving positive feedback on their accomplishments and appreciation for their work in sight, feedback based on performance is the number one motivator of people.

The meeting is to be hosted by the WSDOT Project Engineer, Bridge Technical Advisor, or Bridge Design Unit Manager, when the structures portion of a project reaches approximately 75% construction completion. Invitees should include the Structure Owner, Design and Construction Project Engineer, Contractor, civil and structural Designers, and Inspectors. The designers will be invited to request feedback on specific details of design, or areas of concern. It is suggested that Consultant attendance at this project debrief is budgeted for in the scope of their construction support agreement; however, an invitation to attend the meeting should be extended even if there is no ability or budget to pay the consultant.

The Bridge Technical Advisor will facilitate the meeting, following the “Structure Construction De-Brief Agenda”, to encourage open, frank, and focused exchange of information on the design, constructibility, and procedures utilized in the construction. Designers and project sponsors will benefit from informal discussions of what went well, details that didn’t work or were expensive to construct, and a debrief of changes made during construction. It is not intended that minutes be kept of all ideas exchanged at the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting the attendees will select ideas that may be beneficial to typical future projects, and what should be avoided or changed. The Bridge Technical Advisor will complete a “Structure Construction De-Brief Report” and submit it to meeting attendees and to the co-chairs of the WSDOT / ACEC Structures Team or their designees. A tangible outcome of these meetings is a knowledge base of lessons learned. This knowledge base will document the top ideas that have been identified and will become the basis for ensuring that good ideas from the past are considered in the design of future projects.