
MEETING AGENDA

AGC – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Meeting

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Andy Brown
Past Chair, AGC Small Business Committee

VA Discussion

Michael D. Brennan, Ph.D., AIA, NCARB
Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management

Tony Costa
Deputy Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management

AGC Questions for VA

AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

- Congressional Justifications are part of VA's Budgets that the President sends to Congress for funding. This occurs on a year-by-year basis.
 - Can you provide summary FY2020 & FY2021 Budget Appropriations based on Minor & Major Construction Program as well as the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) program? Possibly highlighting areas or VISN regions where significant portions of work is anticipated?
 - For FY2021, what are the priority projects for VA? How are those projects determined?
 - What does VA anticipate the outcome of the FY2021 budget request to look like, which projects can be expected to be funded via the FY2021 budget?
 - What is VA planning for with regards to projects that may be funded by the FY2021 budget request?
- Can you provide an update on the progress of this joint program with USACE?
 - How many projects awarded to date?
 - How many projects completed?
 - Current outlook for planned projects?
 - What are the priority projects for USACE/VA? How are those projects determined?
 - What does USACE/VA anticipate the outcome of the FY2021 budget request to look like, which projects can be expected to be funded via the FY2021 budget?

- What is USACE/VA planning for with regards to projects that may be funded by the FY2021 budget request?

VA Response to COVID-19

- The safety and health of VA and contractors are of the utmost importance. VA and AGC Contractors have worked together to continue to quickly execute of these federal facilities.
 - What guidance has the VA issued to contractors?
 - What Class Deviations, if any, were issued?
 - Will any of these Class Deviations be considered to be made permanent?

LEASE CONSTRUCT

- The General Services Administration (GSA) holds the primary authority for Federal real property lease acquisition, with the exception for Medical/Clinical space. The GSA has delegated authority to VA to procure these vital facilities through lease construct.
 - Please explain how projects are determined by VA to fall within the lease construct program and how feasibility, PDS and other study(ies) are used by VA to determine if lease construct is the “right fit”.
 - For developers, architects and contractors interested in getting involved in lease construct projects, what does VA recommend as the best venue for obtaining information for upcoming lease construct opportunities.
 - Please share the currently planned lease construct projects for FY20, FY21.

REVISE AND STREAMLINE THE VA ACQUISITION REGULATION

- AGC understands the VA is proposing to amend and update its VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR). Under this initiative, all VA regulations will be reviewed in phased increments in order to: Revise or remove any policy that has been superseded by changes in the FAR; to remove any procedural guidance that is internal to the VA; and to incorporate any new regulations or policies.
 - Can you provide us with an update on the progress being made with this initiative? Specifically, any progress relative to Part 836 of VAAR: Specific Aspects of Contracting for Construction; Contract Clauses; and Architect-Engineer Services.
 - What changes can the industry expect to Part 836 of the VAAR?
 - Please speak to the proposed VAAR revisions already proposed:
 - Adding a new section to encourage making payments to small business contractors within 15 days of receipt of invoice.

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- What is the timeframe for a rollout of the updated VAAR?
 - When the VAAR is finalized, how will it affect projects that are ongoing before the VAAR update? Will the new rules be retroactive?

VA CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

- In 2015, AGC put forth a host of internal improvements¹ the VA may consider to advance its construction program. Those improvements included: establishing decisions review boards; implementing recommendations from industry peer reviews; adoption of an RMS-type electronic construction management system; utilization of standardized VA facility designs, allowing for industry input on draft RFPs; instituting constructability reviews; and training for construction personnel. We understand that VA has implemented at least some of these suggested improvements and may be working on others.
 - Please discuss what internal improvements are currently being implemented and the status of their implementation

General Questions

- Open questions from the floor?

¹<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/agcfed/downloads/AGC%20Thank%20You%20Letter%20to%20Sec%20McDonald%20Gibson%20re%20Meeting.pdf>