
MEETING AGENDA

AGC – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Meeting

2:15 PM – 4:00 PM

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

VA Discussion

AGC Questions for VA

USACE MANAGED VA PROJECTS

AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

- Congressional Justifications are part of VA's Budgets the President sends to Congress for funding. This occurs on a year-by-year basis. The FY2019 Congressional Justification has been subject to the recent continuing resolutions
 - What does USACE/VA anticipate the outcome of the FY2020 budget request to look like, which projects can be expected to be funded via the FY2019 budget?
 - What is USACE/VA planning for with regards to projects that may be funded by the FY2020 budget request?
 - What are the priority projects for USACE/VA? How are those projects determined?

VA MANAGED PROJECTS

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 - What does VA anticipate the outcome of the FY2019 budget request to look like, which projects can be expected to be funded via the FY2019 budget?
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LEASE CONSTRUCT

- The General Services Administration (GSA) holds the primary authority for Federal real property lease acquisition. Leasing performed by GSA focuses primarily on Office Type Space, not on Clinical/Medical space required to house functions such as those contained within an outpatient clinic. With VA's ability to directly procure Clinical/Medical space, 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 FY19, FY20.

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all VA regulations will be reviewed in phased increments in order to: Revise or remove any policy that has been superseded by changes in the FAR; to remove any procedural guidance that is internal to the VA; and to incorporate any new regulations or policies.
 - Please speak to this proposal to update and streamline the VAAR?
 - This VAAR revision would include 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:
 - Removing Letters of Availability;
 - Updating the Insurance Under Fixed-Price Contracts section, to clarify the provision prescription for when insurance is required for solicitations when utilizing term or continuing fixed priced contracts for ambulance, automobile and aircraft service;
 - Updating the language regarding the prohibition of contractors from making reference in its commercial advertising regarding VA contracts in order to avoid implying that the Government approves or endorses products or services; and
 - Adding a new section to encourage making payments to small business contractors within 15 days of receipt of invoice.
 - 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

STATE VETERANS HOMES CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

- The State Home Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the States to construct nursing home, domiciliary, and/or adult day health care facilities. The Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) provides technical assistance to VA's State Home Grant Program.
 - Please provide an update on this program.
 - Are there any changes planned for this grant program?

General Questions

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- How can AGC improve this session and serve VA better in the future?
 - What would VA like to see included in future AGC Federal Contractor Conference forums?
 - Open questions from the floor?

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