

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting
April 19, 2023 – via in Person and Video Conference

JOINT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants:

MDT:

Duane Kailey
Jake Geottle
Dustin Raush
John McMillan
Joe Green
James Sullivan
Matt Collingwood
John Schmidt
Oak Metcalfe
Regina Beiber
Matt Needham
Dean Jones
Matney Juntunen
Stephen McEvoy
Christopher Trautmann
Jim Davies
Jeff Jackson
Darin Reynolds
Joel Boucher
Maghan Strachan
Megan Handl
Matt Strizich - FHWA
Jay Fleming
Darrell Williams
Mike Dodge
Paul Cogley
Clarissa Martin
Tyrel Murfitt
Paul Bushnell

MCA:

Nicole Hanni – MCA
David Smith - MCA
Guy Slaybaugh – Century Companies
Soloman Redfern – Helena Sand & Gravel
Kevin Helling – L & J Construction
Hal Fuglevand – Knife River
Clinton Habel – Riverside Contracting
Jodie Tooley – MT Lines
Keith Johnston – Mountain West Holdings
Russ Guab – Riverside Contracting
Kerry Gray – Highway Specialties
Cale Fisher – Riverside Contracting
Russ Robertson – Sletten Construction
Bob Warren – Schellinger Construction
Ruiz Marquez – Alpine Signs
Trevor Livesay – MT Lines
John O’Brien – Alpine Signs

SPECIFICATION CHANGES

101.03 DEFINITIONS

102.11 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

103.06 CONTRACT BOND

105.05 COOPERATION BY CONTRACTOR

Slaybaugh offered to help update partnering manual.

107.13 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

107.17 CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK

108.01.1 SUBCONTRACTING

McMillan discussed this was a common Q&A document which hasn't been denied by MDT yet.

108.03.2 PROJECT SCHEDULES

McMillan: Matney working with MCA on cleaning up project schedules and specifications. Share comments prior to next week's meeting to prepare.

Slaybaugh: A lot of comments from MCA.

Geottle: Meeting next week to discuss draft changes. Some were from previous conversations, some clean up.

MCA will solicit comments and ideas for next week's meeting on scheduling.

109.06.1 BILLING CYCLE

108.05 CHARACTER OF WORKERS

Added work unsafe to definitions.

Soloman Redfern: Who will make this determination? EPM?

McMillan: Yes, always from the safety officer. Each district has their own safety officer

Jake: Spec has been used before but was elevated to a higher level in the past.

109.06 PARTIAL PAYMENTS

208.03.1f EROSION CONTROL PLAN

DEQ no longer accepts checks. All payments are made through an online system.

301 AGGREGATE SURFACING

McMillan Already defined within testing and gradation requirements.

409.03.3 SEAL COAT LIMITATIONS

McMillan": Max surface temp for seal coating set to 140 degrees.

411.03.2 MILLING

501.02.3 DOWEL BARS AND SLEEVES

McMillan: Requiring the ends to be coated.

551.03.7(B) LIQUID MEMBRANE-FORMING CURING COMPOUND

602.04.3 FILL AND ABANDON PIPE

612 PAINTING

McMillan: Industry recommended spec change.

617 TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND LIGHTING

McMillan: Lots going on here. Added to standard specs.

Livesay: Already worked through meeting this currently. Wondering where Fabrication of welding requirements came from.

Fred Beal: New guidance from FHWA based on research out of Vermont.

Frank Dugas: Vibration is an issue. Page 41.

619 SIGNS AND DELINEATORS

McMillan: Special provisions from traffic.

John O'Brien: Can 3M make this change for the state of MT? Currently, they reached out asking what they currently use.

Aaron Grey: 3M is not currently meeting this requirement. No more 34 inch, only doing 31 by 1.5.

McMillan: Will discuss with Tyrel.

701.02 AGGREGATE FOR SURFACING

704.1.8 OVERHEAD STRUCTURES

Add "current" to AASHTO Standard. Helps eliminate confusion.

704.01.10 RETRO-REFLECTIVE SHEETING

McMillan: Standard special.

John O'Brien: What was motivation behind this change? Currently, spec allows 5 different types of sheeting on signs. Reducing down to type 11.

Johnson: Would make 70% of his signs inadequate. Huge cost.

Dustin: Intent was to allow contractors to use current inventory. We need to look at this again.

McMillan: Late addition. Will need to be revisited.

Tyrel: Worked with Jeremy Wilde. Thought it be best to match permanent stuff. Switched to type 11 on permanent signs.

Geottle: Can MCA submit comments? What is a reasonable transition period?

John O'Brien: What is the motivation behind why this change is needed?

Please submit comments to MDT.

710.02 TABLE 710-2

MCA New Business

1. Subsection 104.04 Payment for Extra Work.
 - a. Fisher requested clarification out to field. 5% doesn't cover cost.
 - b. Geottle: This was intended for extra subcontracted work. Only for the administrative part. The items discussed by Cale should not be covered by 5%. Currently working on help guide that details fees, bond increases, insurance increases in addition to administrative allowance. More is coming with this spec. This is consistent with all surrounding states. Seems MDT might not be on the right track. Not looking to stop contractors from being paid for extra work, just trying to be consistent.
 - c. Green: August 2021 EPM meeting. Put this out to vote. Spec change or not. Vote showed to move forward with spec change. Table was too low, met in middle around surrounding states. Consistent with neighboring states.
 - d. Soloman: Margin isn't allowed.
 - e. Tooley: Not allowed to detail costs in office regarding admin on a change order. If more time is spent helping to subcontract, then sometimes they will charge MDT and it is usually denied. In some cases, extra office work, not in the field, will exceed the 5%.

MDT New Business

2. ACEL – Approved Const Equip List
 - a. Jim Sullivan discussed special provision on equipment. Working on updating website and list of equipment. Major upgrades to website completed.
 - b. Benefit of list: If contractor is using one of these equipment items, then it is preapproved on any state bridge in advance. Encourage contractors to submit any equipment on a project to the ACEL group to be analyzed. Taking up to 3 months due to lack of resources in bridge department. 2 people do the load ratings for the state. Originally developed in order to take the burden off those 2 people, and shift to other engineering firms in the state. Then MDT would take on the cost of new engineering firm. Contractors are always able to hire a firm to do this evaluation. Cost can be recouped. If you

have an equipment list, submit them all now. Only non-legal loads have to be reviewed.

- c. Helling: 13 months ago, he submitted 2 items. Why not on an approved or denied list? Working through these items...
- d. Slaybaugh: What is the reason for this list?
- e. Warren: Impact huge. ACEL is a great idea, but it isn't working.

3. Materials Follow Up

- a. Oak Metcalf discussed more advanced notice when trying something new. More partnering. Pilot projects. More communication on these changes. Working on a list of paving contractors to communicate directly.
- b. Discussions at national level about what it would take to create a MT/ID state asphalt association.
- c. At last meeting with MCA, there is a potential for starting a asphalt/plant mix division in the MCA similar to concrete division. Balanced Mix Design is something MDT is working towards. Need to establish specifications. First step will be a cracking test. Lowering gyration level to 50. Just met with Concrete industry and MCA concrete division to brainstorm and come up with ideas on competition and spec changes. Set up a group to look at precast specs. Want to treat in-state and out-of-state suppliers the same. Planning on 2024 concrete industry and plant mix meetings in Billings Feb 26 in afternoon. Tentative plan.

4. Signing Detailed Drawings

- a. Tyrel Murfitt left. Discuss in next meeting.

Old Business

1. DBE – Updates

- a. Megan Handle discussed working with Paul Thompson on bidding and estimating classes over the month of May.
- b. Certifying new firms that are highway related. Keep an eye out for info on the new firms.

Ad-Hoc

1. Contractor/MDT Project Evaluations

- a. Geottle: Discussed evaluations that other states complete. Both a contractor and MDT evaluation. Only to be used as a lesson learned on both sides.

- b. Clarissa: Running trials this year on how to make this work, tied to partnering. Still working through what this process could look like.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.