

MCA – MDT Highway Tech Meeting
Feb 20, 2024

JOINT MCA-MDT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants

MDT:

Megan Handle
Megan Strachan
John Schmidt
John McMillan
Joe Green
Oak Metcalf
Dustin Rouse
Robert Vasil
Clarissa Martin
Paul Cogley
Matt Needham
Matt Collingwood
Paul Bushnell
Russ Robertson
Matthew Strizich
Jeffery Harris
Darin Reynolds
Matney Juntunen
Christopher Trautmann
Jeff Jackson
Christian Nygren
Tyler Steffan
Dean DeCarlo
Regina Beiber
Rich Hibl
Hannah Woolsey
Josh Heck
Shane Pegram
Ted Thronson

MCA:

Cale Fisher – Riverside Contracting
Clinton Habel – Riverside Contracting
Russ Gaub – Riverside Contracting
Guy Slaybaugh – Century
Kielely Cassidy – Jeffery Contracting
Glenn Kautz – Highmark Traffic
Soloman Redfern – Helena Sand & Gravel
Kevin Helling – L&J
Brad Newcomb – Calumet
Deb Poteet – Poteet Construction
Andrew Malmend – Fossum Material
Ross Fulton – Fisher Sand & Gravel
Nicole Hanni - MCA
Goerge Chick – Riverside Contracting
Russ Robertson – Sletten

MCA New Business

1. Update on the status of LS vs unit pricing for erosion projects. We're hearing there is still conflict in the field. MDT does not want to be the permit holder yet they continue to direct BPM installation on the project. This is causing conflict. Also TC – bring folks up to date on the recent meeting and looking for next steps.
 - McMillan discussed a proposal in progress that will help alleviate this issue. As far as lump sum erosion control, a spec change is coming out in April. MDT needs more

details on the second part to help alleviate what that issue is. The yearly EPM meeting is next month and will be discussed to help with consistency.

2. BNSF wants to see ROW plans when we submit applications which are not typically provided by MDT.
 - McMillan discussed this at last week's premeeting. MDT feels that shouldn't be a problem. Rouse discussed that MDT might not have a set of plans applicable to the project.
 - Fisher discussed a specific project and online permitting process. The firm that BNSF uses denied application because they needed more information. Riverside clarified and was then denied by BNSF. BNSF wants ROW plans that are specific to ROW for BNSF. This information would be project specific. MDT might not have ROW plans that are project specific.
3. Incidental Bid Items
 - Redfern discussed special provisions or plans that bidding incidental work and there isn't a pay item for it. If contractor runs across these, they will submit to MDT.

MDT New Business

1. Materials – Guardrail

Oak Metcalf

We changed the spec and are now requiring all steel beam (box and W) to come off the QPL moving forward. This has allowed us to get concurrence from FHWA to recategorize steel beam guardrail as a CAT 2 Buy America Steel item. So, we just want to let contractors and suppliers know what documentation they will be expected to provide and that we will be auditing them. To get to Cat 2, the supplier has to maintain the documentation, so we'll be checking.

- Metcalf discussed this spec change moving to category 2 to standardize it across the nation. Hope is that day to day project work goes, this will streamline things and make everyone's life easier.

2. Bolting and Welding Inspection

Fred Beal

Bolting and Welding Inspection. MDT has not been enforcing the bolting and welding specs consistently in the past when it comes to prestress beams that have weld tabs and/or bolted diaphragms. Contractors should be aware that we are now doing a better job at this. They will need to be prepared for PIV testing (Pre-Installation Verification using their Skidmore device on site) and ensure they provide enough extra bolt assemblies for the Helena Lab sample and for field PIV testing. We also need to have approved welding documentation for all welding, including any related to prestressed beams. MDT is finding that code requirements related to electrode storage/rod ovens and restrictions against welding when surfaces are wet or exposed to rain and snow are an issue.

- McMillan discussed MDT having expertise and will be looking more carefully at these procedures. Some have already identified as not being followed. MDT will begin enforcing these procedures going forward.

3. Extra Work Subsection 109.04

Fred Beal

Subsection 109.04 Extra Work. In December Beal sent a proposed revision to the specification for review so that we may discuss the changes at the upcoming meeting.

- MDT would like comments from contractors today. Soloman will forward what he has so far.
- Comments so far: Do we include OT/benefits/fringe in hourly rate?

- Chris with MWHC discussed his issues with this spec change and confusion with Davis Bacon rates. This has the potential to impact a business at a high level.
- Collingwood discussed how other states document the costs for each by submitting payroll info, benefits, and workers compensation. That would create more paperwork than needed. MDT is looking for a general marked up base rate to eliminate all the unneeded paperwork.

Old Business

1. DBE – Updates

Megan

- Handle discussed new 6.3% FHWA goal. Conditional approval or if MDT must go to project specific goals. Always trying to gain new DBE's. Currently at 4.2%. Prebid networking meetings. If attend and apparent low, will give 10 extra working days on contract. Billings and Great Falls coming up March 12th and 25th. Also providing training "You got the job, now what" to help DBE's succeed. Airports also have DBE goals and will have to move to project specific if they don't meet goal. April letting will pay an incentive when a contractor signs a project with an DBE. SBE goals will be set on large projects and goal is to start in June letting.

2. Polymer Overlay

Redfern

- Tyler Steffen discussed final research project and long range planning.
- Helling discussed sharing information. Listed on MDT page that shows research. MDT will share link with MCA.

Ad-Hoc

1. Pre-Con Meeting. Contractor Representatives

Ad Hoc. Pre-Con Meetings and Contractor Rep in attendance. MDT discussed this at our quarterly DCE meeting and it was decided that the language will not be changed as it is clearly defined who should attend the meetings.

- Slaybaugh discussed contractor/superintendent must attend preconstruction meeting. They are mostly hold in off season and the superintendents are seasonal. Instead, contractors are sending PM or other key decision holders. Lots of grief that superintendent isn't in person.
- MCMillan discussed DCE meeting last month. MDT defines superintendent as someone in charge and if someone else is determined to be in charge, that's okay. Mostly the DCE's want someone there to answer the questions.

2. Industry Meeting Update

- Metcalf discussed Construction Conference next week in Billings.
- Afternoon before MT Asphalt Conference in Helena on 3rd.
- April 17 meeting at MDT for precast industry and current issues.

3. Traffic Control Committee

- Clarissa discussed meeting a few weeks ago and lump sum guidance. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday this week. No feedback so she plans to extend comment period a few weeks.

4. Glenna with HMTS discussed pavement marking grooving and change in Taft West and question on depth of groove. Lots of changes and questions on method of measurement and basis of payment.