

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting
October 16, 2024 – in Person and Video Conference

JOINT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants:

MDT:

Joe Green - MDT
Jeremy Wilde – MDT
Dave Gates – MDT
Randy Boysen – MDT
Doug McBroom – MDT
Fred Beal – MDT
Matt Needham – MDT
Matthew Collingwood – MDT
Kurtis Miros – MDT
Maghan Strachan – MDT
Bob Vosen – MDT
Darin Reynolds – MDT
Clarissa Martin – MDT
Mitchel Dolphay – MDT
Miki Lloyd – MDT
Terrence Callahan – MDT
Dean Jones – MDT
John Schmidt – MDT
Christopher Trautmann – MDT
John MacMillan – MDT
Oak Metcalf – MDT
Jay Fleming – MDT
Dustin Rouse – MDT
Jay Manuel – MDT
Lars Haagerup – MDT
Megan Handle – MDT
Andrew Anderson – MDT
TJ Ramaeker – MDT
James Sullivan – MDT
Bill Felton – MDT
Luke Francis – MDT
David Gates – MDT
Darrell Williams – MDT
Mike Dodge – MDT
Matney Juntunen – MDT
Ted Thronson – MDT
Mike Moore – MDT
Dan Clary – MDT
Matthew Strizich – FHWA
Audrey Yerger – MDT
Paul Cogley – MDT
Stephen McEvoy – MDT
Paul Bushnell – MDT

MCA:

Dan Kohler – MCA
Brad Newcomb – Calumet
David Smith – MCA
Nicole Hanni – MCA
Solomon Redfern – Helena S&G
Hal Fuglevand – Knife River
Buster Bullock – Bullock Contracting
Pat Bomgardner – MT Lines
Kevin Helling – L & J
Ben Becker – Sundt
Colton Dean – Century Co
Jodie Tooley – MT Lines
Clint Habel – Riverside Contracting
Sam Weyers – LHC
Keith Johnston - MT West Holdings
Cale Fisher - Riverside Contracting
Kerry Grey – Highway Specialties

SPECIFICATION CHANGES

101.03 Definitions

102.07 Bidding Requirements

104.02.4 Change Orders

Redfern questioned what formal approval is. McMillan discussed formal approval is having document signed and returned to MDT. Then change order work can proceed.

105.01 Authority of the Engineer

105.03 Incentive Ties

Redfern questioned if this would tighten up this factor and what's the reasoning? MacMillan discussed putting more emphasis on ride and density and not so much on the volume metrics. Metcalf discussed the density metrics still being there, but there was a lack of attention placed on density. Incentive amounts show payment 100% of the time, but still have issues with density. This should open more opportunities to get an incentive on density and intensifies the focus to make sure that we are not forgetting density. Fisher questioned if MDT is seeing deducts on density. Metcalf doesn't have numbers from last year, but prior years show problems achieving density.

105.09 Authority and Duties of the Project Manager

MacMillan discussed this spec giving the PM more authority and power to enforce missing documents. This is a common issue with payroll paperwork. Rouse clarified that it's UP TO 10% and how this is a repeat legislative finding because they can't produce these documents. The PM will decide how much will be held back. Fisher discussed how he sees this issue with smaller subcontractors and how it took a long time to get that paperwork turned in and how do we push this penalty to the subs? Fuglevand questioned if the new certified payroll system is causing this issue. Tooley agrees this should be associated items and pointed out how open ended this is. Makes it hard to anticipate when the prime didn't know there was missing paperwork. Fisher reiterated his concerns on how this will be a last resort. MDT shouldn't wait months down the road and penalize the prime contractor because a sub isn't getting with the program. Tooley discussed providing a list of the subcontractors to MDT, and if they can advise what subs are set up with ASHTOWARE to help identify the non-compliance subs sooner than later.

107.15 Responsibility for Damage Claims

Clean up from legal staff.

108.01.1 Subcontracting

108.01.4 Certified Payroll Compliance

108.03.2 Project Schedule

108.08 Liquidated Damages

109.04 Payment for Extra Work

Redfern discussed linking where MDT is getting the rates. Beal is open to linking directly and providing information.

208.03.3 Regulations and Permitting

Redfern discussed comment on 208.05 and how contract time usually leads to liquated damages. This can be slightly subjective and why doesn't the permit process handle issues. MacMillan discussed this being an issue and no adjustments will be made.

401 Plant Mix Resurfacing

Metcalf discussed the move over to MSCR. There are a lot of different tolerances, but MDT is going with the minimums. Redfern discussed urban projects curve and the possibility of changing that.

402 Bituminous Materials

Metcalf discussed cutting back all the fat from this spec.

551.03.2 Composition of Concrete

553.03.1 Fabrication

556.03.8 Bolted Connections – High - Tensile – Strength – Bolts

606.03.14 Impact Attenuator

Redfern shared Poteet comments with MDT and requested a smaller working TC group.

608 Concrete Sidewalks

Metcalf discussed intent is to focus on what is underneath to create a uniform surface for the concrete.

610.04.2 Seeding

618 Traffic Control

Redfern questioned the change to move signs to staging area instead of 30 feet away from traveled road. MDT discussed public perceptions of traffic control and housekeeping that is directly tied to worker safety. Johnston discussed the impact to the daily workload and how this creates more of a hazard because you are removing things multiple different times. This will just create an additional \$1,000 per day in traffic control costs to cover the daily fine. Redfern discussed the shift at MDT where fines and penalties seem to be the new process and partnering doesn't seem to be helping work through these issues. MDT and MCA will create a traffic control working group to discuss further.

702.01 Bituminous Materials

Newcomb questioned where the 4% came from. Metcalf discussed this was a discussion with the manufacturers of this to make sure they perform.

708.01 Reinforced Concrete Pipe

Errata

MCA New Business

1. Bid File Updates

- a. Fisher asked if we could agree to a Tuesday noon timeline. Reynolds discussed completely end of business on Tuesday if closing on Friday. If Q&A forum closed Friday, it would allow for more time. When amendments are posted, notification doesn't go to the contractor, just MDT. Monday closures also create a delay. Goal to post amendments sooner but MDT has until end of business on Wednesday to post.

2. Plan Revisions posted on Q&A

- a.

MDT New Business

1. Laboratory Accreditation

- a. Metcalf discussed timeframes and an issue with getting aggregate sources approved. Consultants could do work if the laboratory is accredited.

2. Bolting-tensioning; bolting demonstration

- a. Beal discussed structural bolting being a focus item for FHWA and a lot of spec revisions on this. Is there an interest amongst contractors in going over bolting demonstrations sometime in the down season? MCA and MDT both think this is a good partnering idea and will try and schedule something during the down time of the construction season.

3. Erosion Control Rate Schedule – Update

- a. No comments

Old Business

1. DBE - Updates

- a. Strach discussed upcoming DBE events and changes to subcontractor spreadsheet. DBE goal not met Sept 30th so more changes are headed our way.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm. Next meeting is December 11th after Partnering Summit.