

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting
March 4, 2025 – in Person and Video Conference

JOINT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants:

MDT:

Randy Boysen
Paul Cogley
John MacMillan
Joe Green
Dustin Rouse
Dave Gates
Clarissa Martin
Meghan Strachan
Matt Needham
Tyrel Murfitt
Jay Fleming
Dean Jones
Jeff Jackson
Patrick Lane Jr
Ted Thronson
Shane Pegram
TJ Ramaeker
Matney Juntunen
John Schmidt
Jim Davies
David Cadena
Mike Dodge
Fred Beal
Miki Lloyd
Jeffrey Harrison
Darrell Williams
James Sullivan

MCA:

David Smith
Nicole Hanni
Solomon Redfern - Helena Sand & Gravel
Deb Poteet – Poteet Construction
Jodie Tooley – MT Lines
George Shick – Riverside Contracting
Russ Gaub – Riverside Contracting
Russ Robertson - Sletten
Pat Bomgardner – MT Lines
Guy Slaybaugh – Century Companies
Danielle Lee – MT Lines
Clinton Habel – Riverside Contracting
Kris Woll – Pavement Maintenance
Cody Wagner – RDO Equipment
Tim Anderson- Bridger Precast
Mark Huntington – Jeffery Contracting
Amy Strainer – Stahly Engineering
Brad Newcomb – Calumet
Andrew Malmend – Fossum Materials
Ryan Young – Poteet Construction
Hal Fuglevand – Knife River
Colton Dean – Century Companies
Kerry Gray – Highway Specialties

MCA New Business

1. Propose Changes to Subsection 701.02.8 Crushed Cover Agg.

- a. Needham needs more information/data from the contracting community on where this is an issue. Gates discussed handling this through the Q&A. Redfern discussed this being an issue statewide on the 200s and the 400s. MDT needs data to determine if this change will affect quality.

2. EEO Bulletin Board Requirements

- a. Tooley discussed the mobile contractor approach and the challenges they are facing to find a solution in all these situations where we are Prime and mobile. Collection of the subcontractors EEO polities. Currently there is a list that tells the prime if the subcontractor has the EEO approval. Can this be something downloadable from the website? Strachan discussed a banner not being a problem as this is the first season and recognizes that this can be a challenge for mobile contractors. MDT is open to hearing how things work and open to coming up with solutions. Strachan will follow up with the group on downloading the EEO paperwork.

3. Timely reporting of MDT Lab Results

- a. Mr. Smith discussed timely reporting and consistency of results are something of a concern with the contractors. Smith discussed a situation where 2 tests were done on 1 project, one passes and another fails. MCA will schedule a meeting to discuss with a smaller working group in the next 30 days.

MDT New Business

1. Bidders List Data/Subcontractor Report Requirements

- a. Strachan shared documents on DBE-SBE requirements and how it will be required at the time of the bid. Gates discussed this being a federal requirement and if information was not provided with bid you would be deemed nonresponsive. MDT realizes that the bidding company will do their best to report accurate information. Gaub discussed some subcontractors refusing to provide this information and wants to know what the prime can do. Rouse discussed making this a requirement as part of the bid as a possible solution. MDT is still working on when this will be implemented, but they are hoping to start using this in May letting. Strachan will share CFR with the group. Slaybaugh asked what kind of pushback has occurred with other states and if they are making progress. Some states have implemented this change, and others are still trying to figure out how to be in compliance.

2. Traffic Control Meeting Update

- a. Poteet discussed situation where flagger comes in for a short window, then nothing for a few miles. Flagger will not be paid during the window between when the flagger is needed. Redfern discussed how we can make this work

better for the flaggers. Flaggers are pushing for 8 hours a day to make it efficient and worth their time. Poteet discussed meeting with MDT to further discuss some of the feedback on the traffic control minutes shared with the group.

3. Plant Mix Industry Meeting

- a. Boysen discussed balance mix design workshop, but it was postponed. Impromptu industry meeting occurred. MSCR binder grading specs started at the beginning of the year.

Old Business

1. SBE Goals & Good Faith Efforts

- a. Strachan discussed setting goals on projects at 0.01%. MDT will start increasing the project level goals, but that didn't allow for good faith efforts. As goals are increased, MDT recognized that they need to figure out a process for good faith efforts. MDT meets to discuss/review and contractor has the ability appeal the decision.

Ad-Hoc

1. Billings Networking Event

- a. Gates discussed upcoming networking events to get more DBEs and SBEs. Feedback received includes that most of the primes show up, and not many subcontractors. Creation of a Prime Panel to try and bring in more subcontractors to draw in attendance.

2. Partnering Summit Discussion

- a. Martin discussed potential changes to the Summit. Idea of to include with Construction Conference to start Thursday evening and carry into Friday half day meeting with the normal summit. Next year it will be March 5-6 in Missoula. Survey was sent out for last summit and showed overall theme regarding increasing attendance and encouraging lower level attendance. Over 90% of responses are positive from EPMS regarding contractors and partnering.

3. Federal Wage

- a. Smith discussed trying to get the federal wage rate and not getting a response from the Federal DOL. Finally got a response Friday showing movement.

4. Legislative Update

- a. SB 359 came out of the senate.
- b. SB 324: \$50M for local bridges. Governor priority.

- c.** HB 672: Help motivate companies for relocations as it relates to construction. Bill moved out of the house and will make a liquidated damages to utility companies that are not responding. MT is one of three states that still pay for utility relocations.
- d.** Bad gravel bills were defeated.

Tri State Asphalt Pavement Association idea from Oak Metcalf now that he left FHWA. WY DOT is very interested. ID has a grassroots idea started. MT is one of 7 states that does not have an Asphalt Pavement Association, either independent or underneath AGC. Further discussions to occur in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm. Next meeting is April 16, 2025.