

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting
October 15, 2025 – in Person and Video Conference

JOINT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants:

MDT:

Hayden Burnett
Wade Salyards
Kathy Terrio
Erik Martini
Dave Gates
Erika Wimmer
Miles Yerger
John McMillan
Randy Boysen
Fred Beal
Matt Needham
Dustin Rouse
Jeremy Wilde
Mike Dodge
Joe Green
Jay Fleming
Stephen McEvoy
Matthew Strizich (FHWA)
Chad Welborn
Jeff Jackson
Dean Jones
Jayden Manuel
Matt Steveson
Carissa Yedica
DJ Berg
Luke Francis
David Holien
James Sullivan
Ted Thronson
Tyler Steffan
Paul Cogley
John Schmidt
Darrell Williams
David Cunningham

MCA:

Nicole Hanni – MCA
David Smith – MCA
Craig Crawford – MCA
Solomon Redfern – MT Materials
Tim Anderson – Bridger Precast
Braden Johnson – Bridger Precast
Russ Fulton – Fisher Sand & Gravel
Cale Fisher – Riverside Contracting
Shane Nelson – Century Companies
Russ Gaub – Riverside Contracting
Justin Biehl – Askin Construction
Jason Kreth – MT Materials
Jodie Tooley – MT Lines
Cassie Crosby – Riverside Contracting
Danielle Lee – MT Lines
Clinton Habel – Riverside Contracting
Hal Fuglevand – Knife River
Russ Robertson – Sletten
Ben Becker – Sundt
Sam Weyers – LHC
Pat Bomgarnder – MT Lines
Kerry Gray – Highway Specialties
Ian McIntosh – Sletten

SPECIFICATION CHANGES

102 DBE and SBE

No comments.

102.08 Rejection of Bid Proposals

No comments.

103.09 Bid Documents

Redfern shared concern of going from 7 business days to 8 calendar days and if this timeline will continue to be sufficient. Martini questioned if this could be done electronically. Burnett acknowledged that this is one day less and thought this would work given that things are electronic now. Some other feedback was shared about how contractors are being given less time.

106.02.3 Contractor-Furnished Sources

No comments.

108.01.4 Certified Payroll Compliance

No comments.

203.03.3 Moisture and Density Requirements

No comments.

208.03.5 (8) Noxious Weed Control

Redfern shared concern about the Project Manager is left to decide, as it leaves this open to interpretation. MDT thinks this is appropriate as they are the subject matter expert.

304 Cement Treated Base

No comments.

402.05 Basis of Payment

No comments.

551 Hydraulic Cement Concrete

Johnson questioned SCC being removed from spec. MDT clarified specific concrete type can still be used.

552.03.19 Bridge Deck Crack Sealing

No comments.

559.03.8 Painting Steel Pile or Steel Pipe Pile

No comments.

603 Culverts, Storm Drains

Anderson questioned line 2 and if the intent was to go with pipe connections to manholes and if wording should be added “whenever possible” as there are occasions where it does not work out. McMillan will work on adjusting spec.

604 Manholes

Anderson discussed industry push for metal fiber and the need for more comments to be submitted.

609 Curb and Gutter

Redfern questioned meaning behind spec change and how its open to interpretation. McMillan stated no paving until curb and gutters are in, and if there are questions to use the Q&A.

610 Re-Vegetation

No comments.

612 Structure Finish

No comments.

624.03.1 Welding – General

No comments.

708.01 Reinforced Concrete Pipe

No comments.

709 Metal Pipe

No comments.

713.06 Weed Control Mat

No comments.

713.10 Mulch

No comments.

717.03 Rapid Setting Patch Material

No comments.

Detailed Drawings

Anderson questioned specific drawing change back to 24.

MCA New Business

1. HiMa Mix

- a. Redfern questioned when MDT might be using this product in the future. Boysen shared how happy they were with the 19th Street project and how it turned out. Yerger discussed potentially using this product in areas where there is high traffic and not a lot of room for work. This product eliminates the need for a chip seal and helps bridge the gap between different products from a performance standpoint. Boysen stated the placement on the road was good, but the hand part was a bit harder. Fisher shared his experience and concerns with this new product and how there is a higher cost since it's thicker. Fisher also encouraged everyone to educate themselves on the differences with this product. Boysen stated that recipe came from Idaho. Gates will identify potential jobs in the future that this might be used on and send to MCA.

2. SBE/DBE Update from DOT

- a. Wimmer discussed interim rule that went into effect Oct 4th. Anything related to DBE has been removed. Gates discussed how MT is doing it differently than the other states around. DBE language has been stripped from the contracts at this point. MDT has decided to maintain the contract requirements in the next letting. MDT will be releasing language about the DBE changes and continuing with the SBE program. Anything advertised after the date of the IFR (10.3) will just contain aspirational goals. Fisher questioned MDTs intent and if the DBEs already certified will automatically be SBE companies. Wimmer shared that all DBEs are already SBE companies as there is a higher threshold, so those quotes count towards SBE goals. Fisher questioned how the directory will be updated in AASHTOWARE but MDT knows that all DBEs are SBEs. MDT is planning to take a short pause on the SBE program and will put goals on projects in the future. Gates discussed MDT taking a step back and figuring out how to evolve the SBE program to work better for everyone. Fuglevand questioned if this was just a Montana process and what is driving this and why. Wimmer shared alignment of SBE program with a specific CFR. Rouse outlined that MDT plans to hold on SBE goals for now, but they intend to put these back in place to build up smaller businesses in Montana. Gates reminded group that this was an interim rule and everyone needs to be patient until this is implemented. Gaub shared concerns about goals and suggested that MDT ask contractors for input before putting these goals in place.

MDT New Business

1. Changes to the Q&A Forum

- a. Salyards discussed timeline and the window that MDT has to accurately respond to questions from contractors. Amendments are growing and plan to move Q&A

closing date to Thursday at 5pm. Redfern shared impact to this change and questions typically come up due to plan errors. Smaller companies work on these items over the weekend and this change might eliminate the ability to identify issues as much as possible. MDT understands this issue but feels there is enough notice. Martini discussed prebid packets being posted months in advance.

2. Buy America/BABA Updates

- a. Boysen discussed November letting and manufactured product waiver going away. Final fabrication needs to occur in the USA. Special provision has been updated based on guidance from FHWA. If categories are incorrect, contact MDT to work through.

Old Business

None.

Ad-Hoc

1. VE Proposal: Gates discussed white paper provided. MDT encourages contractors' teams to work with your EPM when a potential VE comes up. Contractors shared concern that they decide to submit based on EPMs opinion. MDT encouraged all VE's to be submitted.
2. Bridge Summit: Rouse discussed increasing transparency on some items. Federal fiscal year info shared with the group. MDT will publish list of projects for the year along with schedule. Rouse discussed JS map that will include all the bridge work across the state to help contractors determine plan for upcoming work.
3. McMillan: Partnering Training has been posted on the website. Summit will be in March, same as week as construction summit. New partnering staff person in the process of being hired.
4. McMillan: Eticketing presentation in December.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm. Next meeting is December 10, 2025.