

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting
April 15, 2026 – in Person and Video Conference

JOINT MEETING – 2:00 PM

Participants:

MDT:

John MacMillan
Audrey Yerger
David Gates
John Schmidt
Joe Green
Clarissa Martin
Michelle Wheat
Jeremy Wilde
Stephen McEvoy
Matthew Strizich – FHWA
Paul Cogley
Jeff Jackson
Carlos Osorio – HaulHub
Tyler Steffan
Tyrel Murfitt
Dean Jones
Erika Wimmer
Darrell Williams
Carissa Yedica
David Holien
David Cunningham
Shane Pegram
Mike Dodge
Patrick Lane, Jr
Jeremy Wilde

MCA:

Nicole Hanni – MCA
Solomon Redfern – MT Materials & Const
David Smith – MCA
Guy Slaybaugh – Century Companies
Jason Kreth – MT Materials
Dennis Ross – Askin Construction
Russ Gaub – Riverside Contracting
Cale Fisher – Riverside Contracting
Justin Biehl – Askin Construction
Russell Robertson – Sletten
Zach Zupan – Sletten
Keith Johnston – MT West Holding Co
Deb Poteet – Poteet Construction
Vic Crace – Poteet Construction
Kerry Gray – Highway Specialties

Specifications

102.07 Bidding Requirements

Redfern question reasoning behind change. MacMillan will get back to the group.

103.10 Subcontractor Report

102.11 Withdrawal of Proposals

105.03.2 Items Designated for Acceptance on a Lot Basis (Quality Assurance)

105.04 Coordination of Contract Provisions

106.02.3 Contractor-Furnished Sources

511 Concrete

559.02.4 Splicing Piles

605 Concrete Barrier Rail

Crace questioned the spacing and temporary railing and what needs to be provided to the existing rail. Jeremy Wilde clarified that this will be cleaned up and clarified.

608.03.2 Concrete

619.04.3 Treated Timber Poles and Posts

Redfern questioned if contractor is supposed to assume certain length at bid time. Tyrel stated they will provide estimated lengths in information. MDT will pay per item, not length. Crace questioned if the job should be bid on estimated lengths. Plans will not change from estimated lengths. Intent is to make this less complicated to track in the paperwork. Redfern shared variables he has dealt with and how things can change once things start. Key is to be accurate at bid time.

703.04 Standards and Posts

Section 205 Crossover Construction

MacMillan created this new section for crossovers and lumped in three special provisions.

618 Special Provisions – Smart Workzones

Johnson shared concerns about pay being different and if this is all supposed to be included in que detection. Crace discussed adding starlink or cell system and how this doesn't cover cost. Wilde shared that this language was from manufactures and how long term and short term message boards are paid differently. Wilde requested Redfern to send him some invoices on what these charges might be. Redfern will summarize and send to Wilde. Wilde requested that this be pulled and left as a special provision. MacMillan asked that issues with PM/special provisions be shared with MDT.

Errata

Division 150 Alternative Contracting

New section. Redfern questioned how MDT will deal with lump sum and how some things are unknown until on site. How will MDT deal with these things that come up after the project has started. Gates shared that MDT is improving after each design build project and that intent is to make this as smooth as possible. Redfern questioned if MDT leaves a higher contingency. Gates stated it's large at the beginning and smaller as it goes. Redfern shared example of how one bid might include moving a gas line and the other did not. Gates shared that technical committee review members are subject matter experts. Robertson shared that the cost component must be there, and some are so close is that it does come down to cost. Can the state pay for some of these unknowns like normally done. Gates stated communication and partnering escalation are the keys to dealing with this. Yerger shared training on the horizon on how to respond to proposals from MDT.

MCA New Business

1. Std Spec 605.03.14 reflective markers on temp barrier rail
 - a. Covered above
2. Std Spec 619.04.3 Timer Posts payment
 - a. Covered above.
3. Std Spec 618.03.18 End of queue/Walkback flagger systems
 - a. Covered above
4. Addendum to proposed specs – 612.03.1
 - a. Redfern questioned how delayed submittals and how Gates is aware. Reviews are changing and it's not reflected in the contract which is impacting industry and delaying schedules. Gates acknowledged delay in submittals and specifically steel and how they are getting stuck at the project level. MDT is aware of the issue in general and Gates is encouraging all EPMS to ensure that submittals are in alignment with the contract requirements to reach out to discuss and communicate. If second submittal happens, the EPM and PM need to be in alignment and communicate. Zupan stated issue where new comments are coming back on old content, instead of 20 days it's taking 40 days which causes delays in entire project. Gates stated they are testing Autodesk on three projects to handle submittals real time which will facilitate some of this confusion. Zupan stated abrasives came up on a recent submittal and the state is asking for a cert which isn't required by the contract. Bigger issue is why are we submitting abrasives as they are a performance spec on the surface.

MDT New Business

1. 508 Compliance and MDT documents

- a. MacMillan discussed 508 compliance review with their documents. MDT has to review each public facing document and make it accessible by April 18th. Thousands of documents will be updated or pulled from the website. Changes might occur to regular documents and will be removed from external site if not compliant. Contractors might need to ask EPMs for the documents if they have been removed.
2. BABA Update
 - a. MacMillan discussed requirements and will send over update to forward to group. Redfern shared issue with bid item that states aluminum or concrete pipe. On some jobs, aluminum is coming from Canada which is not allowed. Gates shared waivers will no longer be allowed but more information needs to come from Boysen. Gates states contractors need to review the contract and plans and use the Q&A forum.

Old Business

1. E-ticketing
 - a. No further issues to discuss.
2. Timely Reporting of MDT lab results
 - a. Gates stated that communication must be there and the need to work together. Issue is still ongoing.

Ad-Hoc

1. Lump Sum vs By the Day
 - a. Redfern will share concern and issues with MDT on this issue. MDT states that this is a personal issue and staffing is an issue. Johnston will summarize and send to Gates. Gates states that crews should work with the prime traffic control. Johnston states that primes don't want to share bid packages with subs before submitting to keep plans private. He will send letter outlining this to Gates.
2. Aluminum Pipe vs Concrete.
 - a. Gaub shared aluminum pipe was quoted but only supplier gets it from Canada which is not acceptable. MDT required concrete pipe at the expense of the contractor.
3. Summit Update: Clarissa discussed training dates and what works best for everyone. Next summit will be held at the beginning of next year's MCA convention. Also shared info on AFSP Hike for Hope in Helena and the Park County fairgrounds.
4. Crash Cushions: Holein with MDT discussed changes to guards and the options available. Should be pinned down in the next couple of months.

2026 MEETINGS:

June 10

October 14

December 9

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm. Next meeting is 6/10/2026.