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May 14, 2014

MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

NO SPECIFICATION REVISIONS

MDT NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Federal Funding.** The Department discussed the timeframe for the Federal Highway Trust Fund becoming insolvent. The Department has programs, other than highway construction, that rely on Federal funding. The Department is considering taking approximately \$40 million of Fiscal year 2014 funds from the Construction program to fund these programs during fiscal year 2015 in the event a highway bill is not passed. Currently the Department has Federal funding through September 30, 2014. Projects let through that date will not be affected. MCA mentioned that AGC of America is pushing Congress to act on Highway legislation.
- 2. Form 406.** The Department discussed the Buy America requirement related to Precast items. The supplier needs to send a letter to the Prime Contractor certifying all steel used meets Buy America requirements. That letter then has to accompany the Form 406 submitted to the Department. This is the Department's agreement with FHWA. Contractors asked about electronic submittals of Buy America information, the Department will look into this.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Approved Precast Suppliers.** The Department has started looking at this. Right now, the focus is on items like pipe and box culverts. Drafts will be sent to the contracting community.
- 2. Contractor Convenience.** This item is mostly related to traffic control operations. The Department is working on guidance regarding this. Draft guidance will be distributed for Contractor input.
- 3. Mix Design Submittal Sheet.** The Department has put this on hold so some internal discussions can take place regarding the requirement of a PE stamp or certified lab. The new form shown at the last MCA-MDT Technical Committee meetings could likely be posted but the spec requirements would not change.
- 4. Seal and Cover.** The Department and Industry do not completely agree on what the issues currently are. Contractors asked about traffic control requirements and lower speeds on fresh chip seals. The Department will set up another industry meeting. The spec allows up to 72 hours of traffic control, the Department rarely sees this used. Contractors see this as possibly non-uniform. Contractors should be managing traffic proactively instead of reactively. It is difficult to keep traffic slowed down, even when piloting. The industry meeting may be able to occur after the June MCA meeting.
- 5. Field Lab, Standard Plugin.** The Department has not had a chance to look at this issue. It is a good idea. There may be more internal issues than the Department first realized.
- 6. Wage Rates.** The Department has made a little progress regarding the issues with the most recent DOL wage decision. The Department has spoken to a DOL contact in Texas, this has been helpful in figuring out what can and cannot be done. It is a possibility that the

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Department can push a proposal to change the wage decision. The Department is looking for consistency, not much can be done about the wages themselves. Contractors asked if the Department could possibly add a mileage from the applicable county courthouse to the project. This would be "for informational purposes only."

- 7. Subsection 403.03.4.** This spec changed from allowing routed cracks to be unsealed for 72 hours to requiring them to be sealed the same day. The Department stated this was primarily due to concerns about moisture intrusion. The Department asked about sequencing, and the Contractors responded that it is more efficient to have a mile or so of cracks routed each morning so the seal crew does not have to wait for the routing crew. The Department will look at application temperature requirements for sealant material.

AD-HOC ITEMS

- 1. New Spec Book.** The Department has been planning on the new book being effective with the August letting. Currently, the Transportation Commission is in the process of adopting the 2014 Spec Book.
- 2. ONLY and "Arrow" Words and Symbols.** A Contractor asked why the Department went back to the 2005 drawing after there had been a supplement drawing effective in 2012. The Department explained that the stencils that all the Contractors and Department maintenance personal are using seem to match the 2005 drawing. The inconsistency comes from errors in the Standard Highway Signs book, which is a supplement to the MUTCD. In an effort to make all word and symbols standard, the Department went back to the 2005 drawing.
- 3. DBE.** The Department's DBE goal for 2014-1016 will be 3.55%. The Department will not currently be including project specific goals. This is due to the goal currently being met. If DBE usage drops below the overall goal, project specific goals will be reinstated. Current, usage sits over 5%.The Department is looking at the necessity of a new disparity study. Contractors asked if it was possibly to obtain DBE usage from subcontracts, the Department will look into this.
- 4. Meeting Location.** MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting will once again be held at the MCA building at 1717 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Building in Helena, MT.