

The minutes reflect the writer's impressions of the discussion and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the contract to determine MDT requirements.

**October 28, 2015
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

SPECIFICATIONS

1. 108.01.2 Contract Performance
2. 304/701 Sand Equivalent
3. 401/702 Tack Coat

Contractors had concerns with the added storage tanks that would be needed to store off site diluted tack. Additional costs would be incurred for shipping larger quantities of tack to a project.

The topic of lower temperatures and potential of freezing while the tack is in storage was discussed. A supplier questioned the stability of diluted tack being in storage for extended periods, whether it be in hot or cold temperatures. He stated they were in the process of testing different situations for both scenarios.

MDT asked what contractors do with left over tack at present. One Contractor mentioned that at end of year paving, they typically solicit landowners and ask if they can spray remainder on their gravel roads so that they do not have to store the material for extended periods or from one season to the next.

MDT stated that the reason this is being discussed as a possible change, was to stay ahead of any more potential failures. MDT wants to proactive and move toward paying for tack and testing for the remaining residue of tack.

One Contractor asked if any cost analysis had been done on the added expense of the handling, storage and testing of tack. The Department has not, this would be very difficult to quantify.

4. 551.03.1 Concrete
5. Section 551 Concrete

Contractors only comments were directed at the addition of prohibiting the use of evaporation retarders as a method to reduce moisture. This was discussed under the new business concrete item.

6. Table 564-1 Structure Tolerances
7. Section 605 (new) Concrete Barrier Rail

MCA mentioned they will send this to the traffic control contractor to review since they were not present at the meeting.

8. Section 606 Guardrail
9. 607.03.3 Chain Link
10. 701.02.8 Cover

Contractors expressed concerns with the Type 3 cover material and the added cost of washing to produce the cleaner chips. MDT acknowledged that if the cost/benefit shows favorable results, then the added cost is a benefit to the State.

Contractors asked when a Type 4 chip would be used, or if it has been used much. MDT stated that it has been used on projects, but the chip requires more oil. The performance of those

The minutes reflect the writer's impressions of the discussion and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the contract to determine MDT requirements.

projects will be monitored before using it on additional projects. But if the performance of the chip shows improved wear, then the additional cost would be beneficial, and likely be used more often.

11. 701.14 Special Borrow

Contractors asked why there was a limit on the top end of the gradation of 6 inches. MDT responded that the specification is a blanket specification and gradation for special circumstances that may arise when there is no special provisions in place for borrow. The 6 inch maximum size is dictated by fill being placed in 8 inch lifts.

12. 708.03 Concrete Perf Pipe

13. 717.01.4 Concrete Cure and Seal

MDT Materials explained that the addition of this cure and seal will be placed on curbs, sidewalks and barrier rail.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. Federal Funding Status

MDT elaborated on the current funding Bill and how the Bill affects future project lettings.

2. Longitudinal Joint Spec

MDT stated that it will be going toward including the joint density into the QA, but the method spec on how to achieve the density will be modified. More on the discussion of the Spec will be addressed at a future meeting with the Industry. A Contractor asked if MDT could have data available that would show what the incentives/disincentives could have been on projects where MDT was gathering information.

3. Concrete

a. Discuss eastern Montana industry meeting

MDT discussed the concerns and outcomes of the recent Concrete Industry meeting held in Miles City. The concerns were that some suppliers/producers were having trouble getting concrete and/or concrete materials.

There will be a western Montana concrete industry meeting on November 3, 2015.

b. Evaporation Retarders:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/const/const_memo/2015/evaporation_retarders_100515.PDF

MDT explained the reasoning behind prohibiting evaporation retarders. MDT explained that a majority of both Contractors and MDT personnel were unaware of the proper use and application of the retarders. MDT will prohibit them on all projects, effective immediately. Retarders may be used, but only after a change

The minutes reflect the writer's impressions of the discussion and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the contract to determine MDT requirements.

order is processed so that all parties involved fully understand how the additive is to be applied.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

1. Prompt Payments (Subcontracts)

MCA expressed concerns about prompt payment from the Prime Contractor to the Subcontractor. MDT stated it is hesitant to step in and mediate such instances, due to existing laws in place to handle those situations. MDT stated that in the past, it has threatened to withhold payment from a Prime, and that in itself was enough pressure for the Prime to release payments to their Subcontractors.

2. Sage Grouse

MCA asked that all Contractors be aware of the areas in which they are bidding projects and to review the current Sage Grouse laws as it pertains to open pits, project disturbance areas and the projects as a whole.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Test Results

Contractors asked if the process of receiving prompt test results for items such as base gravels be expedited. In one case, a project had been completed with paving and seal coat work prior to receiving the test results for the gravel on which the road was paved. MDT told the contractors to contact the appropriate supervisors when that happens.

AD-HOC ITEMS

Contractors requested that a Plant Mix Industry meeting held in the near future. This will likely occur on the afternoon of Thursday December 17, 2015, following the Highway Technical Committee meeting that morning.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office in Helena.