

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.

**February 15, 2012
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

- 1. New Specification Revisions.** The CAS Bureau has proposed revisions to 6 Standard Specifications. The proposed revisions will be open for comment during the month of FEBRUARY 2012. Each specification was briefly discussed.

Supplemental Specifications

- 1.** 103.08 Failure to Execute Contract
- 2.** 108.03.3 CPM Scheduling
- 3.** 109.10 Overpayments
- 4.** 622.04 Geotextiles
- 5.** 704.01.6 Treated Wood Posts and Poles
- 6.** 712.02.8 Wood Posts and Rails

MDT NEW BUSINESS

- 1. 3/8" Gr S Plant Mix.** MDT Materials discussed changes to the mix. The wear will be decreased and both the Design and Construction VMA will be modified.
- 2. Commercial Plant Mix.** MDT Materials discussed a change to the Commercial Plant Mix Specs. Asphalt Content will no longer be considered as a pay factor. It will still be a requirement.
- 3. Mix Design Transfers.** MDT Materials discussed possibly changing the way it handles mix design transfer requests. There will be some kind of time frame as well as an evaluation of the materials/suppliers used. Materials and practices will need to have remained the same for a transfer to be approved. If a mix design is transferred, QA will begin immediately, as opposed to the targets being set after the current 3000 ton limit.
- 4. Construction Disking.** MDT reminded the contractors that a construction disk is a requirement for embankment and it will be an area of focus for us this year.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Plant Mix Sealing around Guardrail.** A Contractor brought up the topic and mentioned their insurance company does not believe this practice is NCHRP 350 approved. They believe this to be a liability. This practice has been discontinued in the Great Falls District.
- 2. Gravel Cure.** A Contractor voiced concerns about this practice and stated it can prolong a project, especially smaller jobs. MDT reiterated the reasons for the Special Provision.
- 3. Staging SP.** A Contractor voiced concerns regarding the variability of staging requirements on contracts. The lengths allowed can vary substantially. MDT stated these should be project specific and the Project Manager has the ability to modify these if requested and they deem it beneficial.

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- 4. Future Lettings.** A Contractor voiced concerns regarding the future projects schedule that is available on the MDT website. Concerns involved projects 'bouncing' from letting to letting quite a bit and an abundance of projects within the same district letting in the same month. MDT will look at the subject letting. Projects get moved around to accommodate funding as well as construction timeframes and all design activities becoming complete.
- 5. Oil Field Traffic.** MCA asked MDT what they are doing to mitigate the increase in traffic volumes and heavy truck traffic that north and east Montana are seeing due to the oil fields. MDT stated it is studying the issue in the hope of not ending up in the bind North Dakota found themselves in. Several large change orders have been written on existing projects to mitigate issues. MDT stated the Legislators in the area are aware of the issues as well. At this time MDT does not know of any extra money available from the Legislature to address these concerns.

AD HOC ITEMS

- 1. CM/GC.** MDT mentioned its research in to the possibility of using the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) method of contracting. It will require Legislative approval. In this method, the owner (MDT) owns the design and the CM/GC firm is responsible for providing the most cost effective design. The contractors assume less risk than Design Build. MDT stated it will be a joint effort with MCA to implement this process.
- 2. MCA/MDT Executive Meeting.** MCA would like to start having Executive level meetings with the Department as they had in the past. MDT will run this by the Director.
- 3. Dual Bead Application.** MDT asked the contractors if their striping trucks were set up for doing dual bead applications. A contractor stated that not all trucks are currently set up this way.
- 4. Centerline Rumble Strips.** A contractor asked about MDT's use of centerline rumble strips. MDT stated that their use, currently, is limited to areas with safety issues. They are beneficial from a safety standpoint. Having a rumble strip at the joint enables more moisture to penetrate the joint, which is already a problem area. MDT has received mixed feedback from the traveling public.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. CTB Section 304 Rewrite.** MDT reminded MCA and the Contractors that the rewrite of Section 304 is still out for comment and none have been received. The changes are substantial.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office in Helena.