

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 19, 2014
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

New Specification Revisions. The CAS Bureau is proposing revisions to 12 Standard Specifications. The proposed revisions will be open for comment during the month of February, 2014. Each specification was briefly discussed.

Supplemental Specifications

1. 208.05 Basis of Payment.

The Department explained that by making the permit transfer payment directly to the DEQ, the transfer process is not as delayed. A Contractor asked that the language specify that the cost is to be included in the Temporary Erosion Control Lump Sum bid item.

2. 409.03.10 Sweeping and Brooming

A contractor commented that, under (A), the language regarding "remove" seems that it could be ambiguous.

3. 556 Steel Structures

4. 606.03.1 General

5. 618.03.2 Traffic Control Plan

6. 618.03.5 Traffic Control General Requirements

MDT stated the proposed sentence beginning "Do not tow..." would likely not be included in the final draft.

7. 618.03.14 Flagging Operations

8. 622.02.4 Identification, Shipment and Storage

9. 701.03.1 Aggregate for Bituminous Material

Contractors asked about timelines for source acceptance. Several Contractors stated it used to be 30 days. The Department will look into the source approval process.

10. 703.08 Traffic and Pedestrian Signals

11. 715.01 Signs and Channelization devices

A contractor asked about rigid composite materials in place of aluminum or plywood.

12. Advance Flagger Ahead Warning Signs

A contractor pointed out that the title "Advance Flagger Ahead Warning Signs," no longer really fits the Subsection.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. DBE. The DBE program was mentioned, no discussion occurred.

2. Intelligent Compaction. The Department discussed a recent workshop involving Intelligent Compaction. The process seems to have lots of benefits for Contractor QC programs. The Department will not be specifying the use of Intelligent Compaction. It seem like it costs \$10-20,000 to retrofit the system onto a roller.

3. Charge for Mix Designs. Historically, the Department has not charged Contractors for multiple Plant Mix Surfacing designs. The Department is seeing more mix designs with multiple submittals. This eats up a lot of lab and staff time. The Department is currently only running the Hamburg and aggregate properties, not volumetrics.

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- 4. Precast Suppliers Approved List.** The Department is considering requiring precast suppliers to be pre-approved. The Department is considering NPCA or ACPA certifications to be required. The Department knows of one plant that got their certification completed in 30-60 days and it cost them about \$5300/year. A Contractor mentioned that the Department proposed this 10-12 years ago and believed it was dropped due to smaller producers not being able to meet the requirements. This would not be a pre-acceptance program.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Pavement Marking Removal.** The pavement marking removal discussion from the November meeting was brought up. The Department looking at a recently released NCHRP report on the subject. Grinding is not effect in all cases.
- 2. Signing Schedule.** Contractors mentioned that projects with signing summaries but no accompanying plans are difficult to use. The Department believes this has already been addressed. Contractors mentioned that any time graphics can be provided, it is a benefit.
- 3. Preliminary Plan Comments.** A Contractor expressed concern that comments on preliminary plans were not addressed. The comment regarded having alternates for a gravel base along with the designed CTB section. That situation in particular is difficult due the varying footprints of the sections. A Contractor commented that they were really looking for better explanations in response to comments. The Department will attempt to provide more explanation when needed. The Department is considering a Q&A Forum type of system for preliminary plans.
- 4. Pugmilling.** Discussed the proposed spec change from the October, 2013 proposed revisions. Contractors commented that 3 days was impractical. The Department knows there will be times when the proposed spec would be impractical and unnecessary. The change order process is available. Contractors mentioned that it is easier to pugmill material as it comes off the crusher as opposed to sometime later. A Contractor mentioned at one point in the meeting that 60 days might be more reasonable. A different contractor mentioned that 60 days was not enough. The Department wants consistent material that does not need to be worked on the roadway. Pugmilling within the "same season" was discussed. The Department will wait to implement this specification revision and discuss this internally again.
- 5. Contract Time.** MCA has concerns regarding the 6 hour requirement within Subsection 108.07.3. Contractors mentioned that this causes scheduling issues when various trades/subcontractors can't work at the same time. A Contractor mentioned that timeframes are getting tighter. The Department doesn't feel that to be the case. Flextime can help with this issue but is not always an option.
- 6. Contractor Convenience.** A Contractor asked about having a definition for "Contractor Convenience." This seems mostly related to traffic control.
- 7. Old Business.** A Contractor asked that our meetings start by first discussing the Old Business items, rather than any new business so that we can discuss any unfinished topics or concerns.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the MDT Auditorium in Helena.