

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.

**September 17, 2014
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

New Specification Revisions. The CAS Bureau proposed revisions to 6 Standard Specifications. The proposed revisions will be open for comment during the month of September, 2014. Each specification was briefly discussed.

Supplemental Specifications

1. **102.03 Contractor Registration**
2. **206.03.2 Design**
3. **403.02 Crack Sealant Material**
4. **403.03.4 Sealing**

Discussion occurred regarding the paragraph following the proposed change, specifically the manufacturer's application temperature requirements.

5. **551.03.8 Testing and Acceptance of Concrete**

MCA asked if this change had been discussed with the Concrete committee.

6. **707.01 Concrete Joint Fillers**

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. Mix Design Submittals

The Department discussed the proposed mix design submittal form. A spec change will be forthcoming to require the form as a coversheet on mix designs. A discussion occurred regarding accepting mix designs only from an accredited AASHTO lab or a PE stamp.

2. Non-Commercial Start-up mix

MDT opened the comments stating that the startup mix, in its current form, is not working, and that spec changes will be made on the matter soon. Having startup mix is due to the amount of portable plants around the state. Some other states measure production mix against the mix design. We see changes prior to startup. Broadband volumetrics, with remove and replace penalties as well as the current Hamburg testing were mentioned as possibilities.

3. Q&A Forum Closing Time

The Department is considering closing the Q&A forum on Friday rather than on Monday prior to bid. This is partially due to late addenda being issued. Contractors mentioned that if the Forum is closed Friday, questions regarding the proposals may just not get asked. Even if a question cannot get answered, the bid may be better knowing that there was a question regarding a topic.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

1. 2014 Spec Book Cost

Contractors asked the Department to verify the cost of the new Spec books when purchasing them at MDT versus shipping them.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DBE Update

The new disparity study is moving along. The Transportation Commission has wondered why there are no longer project specific goals. The Department asked Contractors to remember to fill out the appropriate forms and questions when they do have Subcontractors that are DBEs, even if the project does not specify any goals. DBE Primes versus DEB subcontractors was discussed. When DBE usage is reported was discussed, whether at the beginning of the job or the end.

2. Wage Rate Schedule

The Department has worked with unions and the Department of Labor to modify zones. A new wage decision is likely to be released soon to bring the zones similar to one another.

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3. Words and Symbols

The Department is not planning on changing the arrow details again soon.

4. RAP proposal

How to bid when using RAP in new plant mix was discussed. There will be a separate plant mix industry meeting following the November MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting. This topic will be discussed.

5. Unbalanced Bid

MCA wondered if the Department would be providing guidance regarding unbalanced bids.

AD-HOC ITEMS

1. August Spec Changes

MCA didn't comment. MCA will likely provide comment with this month's spec comments. This led into a discussion regarding the layout of the website and the Department will be implementing some changes to make the spec change proposals more clear.

2. Begin/End Work Zone Signs

Specification requires these signs to be removed each night if no work is occurring. Verbiage in MCA makes this necessary. Discussion occurred regarding pursuing legislation to modify this. The proposal would make the "Fines Double" applicable to the entire project, not just the work zone. A lot of time and money is spent putting these signs up and taking them down. This would require a draft bill ready for the legislature.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office in Helena.