

MWTP SC – WORKING MEETING NOTES

July 15, 2024

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Approve notes 5/20/24 - **Approved**
- b. Assign Notetaker -**Tom**
- c. Add new agenda topics? - **none**
- d. Attendance: **ST, DK, TM, DW, KM, SB, LF (proxy for KP), RG**

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Data sharing

- i. MDT carcass and crash data sharing process and timeframes – TM, LF

In progress, working with Traffic and Legal – Intent to publish 10 yrs data for carcass & crash with desired attributes on public website. Not likely to include all attributes that have been requested in the past.

Wild animal is one type of crash. Animals in roadway is another “contributing factor” to possibly include.

SB-Will carcass and collision be better able to merge? No, maintain separate datasets.

- ii. FWP salvage permit data sharing – LF, DW, KM

(FWP) Adam Messer and/or Enforcement houses the salvage data. Info requests must be routed through FOIA then to Enforcement. If it comes in, all filtered by single point of contact who would distribute request to appropriate folks to fulfill.

Region 3 has a large number of salvage permits

Planning Tool does not include these, something to consider in future

- b. MDT intentions for WCPP submittals in latest NOFO
 - i. 2 deadlines for FY 24/25, FY 26

DK sent FHWA Authorizations email (7/2/24) for deadlines

Feasibility Studies not completed or substantially completed, do not have reliable cost estimates, match funding. Risk to MDT is too great to support at this time.

FS for Glacier, Darby, and construction for Cougar Ck

LF – question on how many WCPP projects that are moving forward through internal WAP, how many, how often, how did they come about, etc. DK listed the CSKT Ninepipe, Msla-Garrison, Cougar Ck, and new ones.

SB – How do we become more proactive for future funding? Revisit prioritization process conversation? DK- MDT focused on travel infrastructure and use bios as we have (internal process), MDT not going to focus on stand-alone WA structures, this is why we formed the MWTP.

LF- How can others (MSWP) help facilitate short timelines for grant funding apps. DK- feasible studies are huge advantage, not much else.

DW – Does MDT foresee nominating WA focused projects with respect to legislative money set-aside? DK- not a lot of appetite for WA projects. Lots of opposition by gov officials.

- c. FHWA Wildlife Crossing Program revisions (last version 2008) = DW
 - i. DW/LF- Part 2 of 2 (coleen fletcher (FHWA)) meeting, updating 2008 report to congress. Goals Best practices study and updated and expand report, research review, more species (sm mam, aquatics) expected sent to congress in spring 2025. Coordinate with SWAPs, data standardization, national thresholds for conflicts and WA recs, xing design guidance, BMPs, grants, research.

DK- GAO looking at gas tax formula for state allocations. Forecasts are that new formula will not benefit MT. All formulas will be audited and project changes in formula-based funding.

DW- What is happening with the gas tax given the transition to electric vehicles? DK- Elec. Vehicles, MT first state with electrical taxes (into stations), starts next year

RUC, road user cost looked at in other states

III. NB ACTION ITEMS

MSWP – keep MDT/group updated on feasibility studies.

TM – crash/carcass data, ensure wild animal involved crashes included. Highly likely completed for November cycle.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. MWTP announcement for Sixmile moving to FS and other partnership accomplishments – MDT website built for FS projects
 - i. Guidance doc for applicants – MDT re timing and process
ST, working on a guidance doc to applicants for projects moving to FS.

DK, FS for Sixmile- MDT utilize consultant to full extent, DK will update on FS process

- b. GO Letters to Phase II for May cycle (3 applications) – DK, ST

- i. **DK sent 7/15**
- ii. Template letters for Phase I, II, III Letters – DW?
ST done
- c. Sixmile feasibility study progress – DK **see above**
- d. Schedule May-November Deliverables and Comm Plan updates – TM
 - i. Change this to a 2-week window that is consistent for all cycles? **ST to help TM**
 - ii. Include overlap from previous cycles (working on last cycle apps and prep for next cycle)? **ST to help TM**

LF - Jacobs is consultant with CLLC for FS on 2 US-191 projects. Planned 80% FS by Aug, so MDT comfort sponsoring WCPP app in Aug. WCPP deadline 9/4.

V. OB ACTION ITEMS

ST, working on a guidance doc to applicants for projects moving to FS.

ST/TM, Comm Plan and Sched of Deliverables

DK, FS-sixmile update from Kelly Williams

VI. UPDATES

- a. Website, App Guidance docs, Application Form, Comm Plan – ST
 - i. Need to have ready ahead of November cycle

ST continue with To Do list

LF will send quirky application things

MSWP, poss lead a webinar ahead of Nov cycle, BMPs doc for applicants

- b. Summit planning – straw dog of objectives talk to CO folks - KP, ST
- c. **SC to review KP doc, have discussion next meeting.**

VII. NEXT MEETINGS

- a. Working meetings scheduled out through September
- b. Consensus scoring meeting – August 5
- c. SC Working Meeting – August 26
 - i. **Sept 23, 1-3p - September SC meeting**
 - ii. **Oct 24 1-3p - October SC meeting**