

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members
D. John Blacker, Administrator/Maintenance Division
Monte N. Brown, Administrator/Administration Division
Jim Currie, Deputy Director/Department of Transportation
Dave Galt, Director/ Department of Transportation
Gary A. Gilmore, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division
Drew F. Livesay, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division
Joel M. Marshik, P.E., Manager/Environmental Services
Patricia Saindon, Administrator/Transportation Planning Division
Robert Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration

From: Susan C. Sillick
Manager, Research Section

Date: December 6, 2001

Subject: Summary of Minutes from Tuesday, October 30, 2001 Minutes

Sue Sillick chaired the Research Review Committee meeting that started at 9 a.m., MDT Commission Room on Tuesday, October 30, 2001.

1. **Budget Report:** Attached

The RRC had previously received a copy of an up-to-date budget report and needed no additional information.

2. **Research Project – current listing:** Attached

Dave Galt announced that committee member names were now available to be added to the current listing for the Four Lane Study. The committee is working on the scope of work and will have an RFP out in December.

2a. Evaluation of Grade D and Superpave Level I Asphalt Concrete: An Investigation of the Performance of SUPERPAVE Designed Pavements in Cold Regions – Attached (96.064/97.030)

Brad Bruce is now working on this project outside of the research process. Sue recommended that this project be removed from the current Research Project List.

Following a discussion, there was no dissension; therefore, this project will be removed from the active listing.

2b. *Impact on the Highway System of Changes in Grain Transportation Operations*
- Attached (01.012)

This project was submitted by Planning. The original impact they expected, didn't occur. Therefore, this project is no longer a high priority and it is recommended it be removed from the current project listing.

Following a discussion, the RRC decided they wanted to have more information, including the scope of work prior to making a decision at their next meeting.

2c. *Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices* – (99.008)

This project received an approval-in-concept. An RFP was issued. Currently several proposals are being evaluated. The Technical Panel will meet in early December to make their proposal selection.

The goal of this project is an improved manual on erosion and sediment control with a deliverable date of December 2002. Staff training on the new manual would occur January through March 2003.

As there will be no December RRC meeting, Sue will send out a memo ballot for project funding approval.

3. Reports: No Discussion

3a. ***LTAP*** – Quarterly Progress Report – 4/1/2001 to 6/30/2001 – Attached

3b. ***Develop Performance Prediction Models for Checking Design Generated by a Flexible Pavement Design Procedure*** – Progress Report – August 2001 – Attached (98.003)

3c. ***Develop Performance Prediction Models for Checking Design Generated by a Flexible Pavement Design Procedure*** – Progress Report – September 2001 – (98.003) – Distributed at meeting

3d. ***Micropile Systems for Highway Bridges*** – Pooled Fund Study – August 20, 2001 – Available Upon Request

4. Contract Extensions: None

5. **Proposals:**

5a. *Valuation of Temporary Losses of Use of Transportation Facilities* – Attached (95.021)

Jim Hyatt was present from the Technical Panel to support and discuss this project. The purpose of this MPART Small Project proposal from MSU is to determine costs resulting from a temporary loss of use of a facility that can be considered recoverable and/or actually recoverable.

Gary Gilmore made a motion to approve funding for this project. Joel Marshik seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5b. *Crash Test Pin and Loop Connection on the Concrete Median Barrier* – Attached (98.031)

Mark Baum from the Technical Panel was present to support and discuss this proposal, which previously received approved-in-concept. The Technical Panel chose TTI to perform the work. The cost of this proposal could range between \$104,000.00 to \$140,000.00 depending if they will have to physically crash test one or two barriers.

Effective October 1, 2002, all new concrete barrier rails must meet NCHRP 350 Crash Worthy Requirements. With this mandate, Gary Gilmore made a motion that this project be accepted as presented. John Blacker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5c. *High Performance Concrete Phase III* – Attached

Kent Barnes met with the RRC to support and discuss the project, previously approved-in-concept. He said the Technical Panel felt WJE's proposal was the best one and will provide MDT the information needed to meet their needs throughout the entire state.

Jim Currie made a motion to accept this proposal. Seconded by John Blacker. The motion passed.

6. **Implementation:** None

7. **Federal Highway Technology Transfer Funding** (Proposals to be ranked for possible FHWA funding)

7a. *Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE bonds)* – attached

Monte Brown gave some history of the GARVEE bond and explained that MDT is looking at issuing GARVEE bonds to fund Highway 93. Since this is new to MDT,

Monte would like to send some MDT staff to New Mexico to learn of New Mexico's experience.

7b. *Pacific Northwest Snowfighters (PNS)* – Regional Pooled-Fund Study – Attached

The PNS pooled-fund study proposal requests \$10,000.00 a year for two years as MDT's share in establishing a consortium dedicated to the creation and maintenance of specifications for winter maintenance chemicals and their effects on Montana roads.

Nigel Mends spoke to the RRC on behalf of Dan Williams, pertaining to the funding of concrete scaling issues; however, there was some confusion as to whether it was part of the PNS proposal. John Blacker reported that they were definitely two separate issues and that a formal request would be submitted. Dave Galt asked that it be prepared for the next RRC meeting and that it be a joint proposal with the cement industry.

Joel Marshik made a motion to fund the GARVEE bond proposal in its entirety with remaining funds from the FHWA-MT Division \$10,000.00 to go to the PNS study, with the hopes that the PNS study can be completely funded with additional funds from FHWA-Western Research Center. Drew Livesay seconded the motion. Gary Gilmore voted against the motion. Motion passed

8. *Employee Satisfaction Survey* – Linda Francis

This item was removed from the agenda.

9. *Solicitation* (2002)

Sue distributed a research project flow chart. She reminded everyone that research ideas for the current solicitation are due by December 31, 2001. Champions for each project will make a presentation at the January 2002 RRC meeting. Ranking forms will also be distributed at this meeting and will be due by mid-February. The RRC will then choose the new Research Projects at the February RRC meeting.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Pavement Analysis & Research Section
Debbie Alke/Aeronautics Division
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Materials Bureau
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings
Linda Francis/Business Plan Administrator
Loran Frazier, P.E./District Administrator-Missoula
Jason Giard, P.E./District Administrator-Butte
John Horton/Right-of-Way Bureau
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls
Joseph P. Kolman, P.E./Bridge Bureau
William L. McChesney/District Administrator-Glendive
Russell G. McDonald/Human Resources Division
Robert D. Morgan, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau
Kenneth H. Neumiller/Engineering Oversight Bureau
Jeanne Nydegger/Pavement Analysis & Research Section
Brooke Page/Pavement Analysis & Research Section
Carl S. Peil, P.E./Preconstruction Bureau
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services
James A. Walther, P.E./Highway and Engineering Division
Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Construction Bureau
File