

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  
Joel M. Marshik, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division  
Drew F. Livesay, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division  
Patricia Saindon, Administrator/Transportation Planning Division  
Robert Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration

From: Susan C. Sillick  
Chief, Research Bureau

Date: May 9, 2002

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL RRC MEETING HELD 4/30/02

1. **Budget Report:** Attached

No additional comments.

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

2a. *Rockfall Hazard Classification and Mitigation System (01.015)* Approval-in-concept – Attached

Technical Panel members Rich Jackson and Craig Abernathy attended the meeting to support this project and request approval-in-concept for the Technical Panel. Rich gave a brief synopsis and answered questions.

The object of this proposal is to develop a rockfall hazard classification and mitigation system for use on MDT's state maintained roadways.

Dave Galt made a motion to proceed with the RFP. Jim Hyatt seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

3a. *Evaluation of Geosynthetic Reinforced Flexible Pavement Systems Using Two Pavement Test Facilities* (93.072) – Progress Report April 2002

3b. *Rollover Crashes* (98.035) - Progress Report April 24, 2002

3c. *The Effects of Highways on Fragmentation of Small Mammal Populations and Modifications of Crossing Structures (Culverts) to Mitigate Such Impacts* – Interim Report – April 29, 2002

4. **Contract Extensions:** None

5. **Proposals:**

5a. *Cooperative Highway Construction Industry Training Program* – (01.007) – Attached.

Barbara Martin was present to discuss this proposal and answer questions.

This proposal was previously approved–in-concept. After approval-in-concept, an RFP was issued. Nine proposals were received. The Technical Panel evaluated these proposals and recommends the proposal from Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) for funding.

The purpose of this project is to develop a business plan, outlining how MDT, MCA, and the consulting engineers can work together in a cooperative training venture.

Jim Hyatt made a motion to approve the proposal. Monte Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

5b. *Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road? Consequences of a Highway on Painted Turtles Populations in Montana.* – Attached

Daniel H. Pletscher, Professor, University of Montana, Wildlife Biology Program attended the meeting to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology and Transportation Technical Panel recommends this proposal for funding.

This 3-year study includes the components of habitat connectivity and population parameters so that the effects of the road on turtle population can be studied. In addition, experiments will determine if turtles will use culverts.

Monte Brown made a motion to fund this proposal. Jim Hyatt seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

***5c. Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC) Training Management and Development*** – Pooled Fund Study – Presented at meeting

Kent Barnes met with the RRC to discuss this proposal.

The object of this study is to facilitate management of the TCCC at the national level and the development of four to seven courses over a period of several years. Kent suggested the RRC contribute \$20,000.00 a year for 5-year period for a total of \$100,000.00.

Stan Sternberg made a motion to take part in this 5-year pooled-fund study contributing \$20,000.00 a year. Jim Hyatt seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

**6. Implementation - None**

**7. Research Reauthorization**

The Standing committee on Research (SCOR) has made reauthorization recommendations with regards to Operation, Safety, Freight, and Research. These recommendations have been approved by the AASHTO Board of Directors. Sue has a copy of the policy paper on research reauthorization; this paper is available upon request.

**8. FHWA**

Bob Burkhardt, FHWA, informed the RRC that the proposals for FFY 2003 FHWA technology transfer funding need to be submitted in October. Therefore, Sue will need to solicit for ideas this summer so that the RRC can rank these ideas before October.

Bob also indicated that the amount available to each FHWA Division may increase from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 per year.

Finally, information on availability of carry over funds from the current year technology transfer program will be known in August 2002.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Bureau  
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/Research Bureau  
Brooke Page/Research Bureau  
Carl S. Peil, P.E./Preconstruction Bureau  
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services  
Stan Sternberg, P.E., Acting Manager/Environmental Services  
James A. Walther, P.E./Highway and Engineering Division  
Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Construction Bureau  
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