

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
Stan Sternberg, P.E., Acting Manager/Environmental Services
Robert Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration

From: Susan C. Sillick
Manager, Research Bureau

Date: March 28, 2002

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH RRC MEETING HELD 3/26/02

1. **Budget Report:** Attached

No Comments.

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

2a. New Research Projects

Sue announced that Technical Panels had been formed for the following projects:

02.004 – *Road Sand Management on Highways Adjacent to Streams*

02.007 – *Unknown Benefits of Fog Seal on Chip Seal Projects*

02.008 – *The Effect of Montana Air & Congestion Initiative (MACI) on State Air Quality*

Jim Stevenson has been added to project 02.007. If the RRC has any other suggestions for Technical Panel members, please contact Sue.

2b. ***“Statewide Recommendations for Traffic Noise Abatement Solutions for Use in Montana Urban Areas”*** (01.008) Approval-in-concept – Attached

Technical Panel members Cora Helm and Craig Abernathy attended the meeting in support of this project. Cora gave a brief synopsis and answered questions.

The objective of this project is to develop statewide recommendations for traffic noise abatement solutions for use in Montana urban areas. The Technical Panel prepared a Scope-of-Work and requested an approval-in-concept.

Patricia Saindon made a motion to go ahead with the RFP. John Blacker seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

3. **Report:**

3a. ***Develop Performance Prediction Models for Checking Designs Generated by a Flexible Pavement Design Procedures*** – Progress Report – January/February 2002 – Available Upon Request

4. **Contract Extension:** None

5. **Proposals:**

5a. ***Life-Cycle Cost of Thermo-Plastic Pavement Markings*** – Attached

The purpose of this project is to determine the cost-effectiveness of thermo-plastic pavement markings. Dave Galt already approved this MPART Small Project for funding. This project will cost MDT approximately \$7,000.00.

6. **Implementation** - None

7. **Wildlife MOA Update**

The Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology and Transportation Technical Panel met recently to evaluate the five proposals they received in response to the December 2001 RFP.

The Technical Panel recommends the following proposals for full or partial funding, pending recommended proposal changes.

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Linkage and Highway Safety Pilot Study

Roadside Animal Detection System (RADS) Test-Bed

Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road? Consequences of a Highway on Painted Turtle Population in Montana

The Effects of Landscape Features and Transportation Corridors on Movements and Habitat-Use Patterns of Lynx and Wolverine

As soon as proposals are satisfactory to the Technical Panel, they will be brought to the RRC for final funding approval.

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
James A. Walther, P.E./Highway and Engineering Division
Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Construction Bureau
File