

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: April 12, 2005

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER RRC MEETING HELD 9/19/02

1. **Budget Report:** Distributed at meeting – No comments
2. **Research Project – current listing:** Attached

2a. *MACI Effectiveness on State Air Quality* – (02.008) – Approval-in-concept

Tom Steyaert/Transportation Planning attended the meeting to support this project for the Technical Panel and request an approval-in-concept.

The purpose of this project is to hire a consultant to develop a comprehensive report detailing the air quality benefits and costs of implemented MACI projects. These projects will be ranked based on cost effectiveness and will provide MDT information for future air quality projects.

Jim Currie made a motion to proceed with the project. Joel Marshik seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

2b. *Wildlife Projects* – Summary

Sue briefed the committee on current wildlife projects (projects approved through the Department's Wildlife MOA and others).

Sue mentioned that we are completing the second year of our 3-year Wildlife MOA and that this committee would need to decide if the MOA should be renewed, and how we shall proceed.

One of the projects that is currently being funded, mostly through FHWA Environmental streamlining funds is preconstruction monitoring of US 93. The Department is also required to conduct post-construction monitoring of US 93. Joel Marshik had proposed a project to be approved by the Transportation Commission and funded through construction dollars to satisfy the post construction monitoring requirements. This project is estimated to cost \$2 million over a period of 7 years.

Gordon Stockstad, Environmental Services was also present to discuss this issue.

Dave Galt indicated the US 93 post-construction monitoring project will be funded through Research Wildlife MOA funds. He also indicated that any post construction monitoring on MT 83 should also be funded with Research Wildlife MOA dollars.

3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

3a. *Fish Passage at Road Crossings in Montana Watersheds Providing Bull and Cutthroat Trout Habitat* – Quarterly Progress Report – 4/1/02 – 6/30/02

3b. *Highways as Potential Barriers to Movement and Genetic Exchange in Small Mammals* (99.028) – Quarterly Progress Report 4/1/02 – 6/30/02

3c. *Crack Sealing Cost Effectiveness* (93.013, 94.033, 94.059) – Quarterly Progress Report – 4/1/02 – 6/30/02

3d. *High Performance Concrete – Phase III* – Quarterly Progress Report 4/1/02 – 6/30/02

3e. *Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road? Consequences of a Highway on Painted Turtles Populations in Montana* – Quarterly Progress Report – 4/1/02 – 6/30/02

3f. *National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 17-18(3)* – Pooled Fund Study - Quarterly Progress Report – 4/1/02 to 6/30/02

3g. *Methods for Determining Bankfull Discharge and Other Flood Discharges for Ungaged Sites in Western Montana Based on Channel Morphology* – Progress Report – 1/1/02 to 6/30/02

3h. *Evaluation of Methods for Estimation of Bridge-Pier Scour for Streams With Coarse Bed Materials Based on Observed Pier Scour in Montana* (99.019) – Progress Report – 1/1/02 to 6/30/02

3i. *Hydraulic Characteristics of the Upper Yellowstone River, Montana* (99.018) – Progress Report – 1/1/02 to 6/30/02

3j. *LTAP* – Quarterly Progress Report 4/1/02 to 6/30/02

3k. *Develop Performance Prediction Models for Checking Designs Generated by a Flexible Pavement Design Procedure* (98.003) – June/July 2002 - Progress Report

3l. *A Study for the Economic Effects of Reconfiguring Montana's Two-Lane Highway* – July 2002 Progress Report

3m. *A Study for the Economic Effects of Reconfiguring Montana's Two-Lane Highway* – August 2002 Progress Report

3n. *Extending the Season for Concrete Construction and Repair* - FHWA Pooled-Fund Study – September 2002 Progress Report

4. **Contract Extension:**

4a. *High Performance Concrete, Phase III*

Bill Fullerton/Bridge Bureau and Kent Barnes/Materials Bureau met with the RRC to discuss and support this contract extension for the Technical Panel.

The object of this contract extension is to obtain additional testing data as the cement industry is now able to provide blended cements. Had these blended cements been available when the contract was first written, they would have been included in the original testing. Further discussion indicates that when this project is completed it could mean changes in MDT's specifications based on the outcome of this project.

Joel Marshik made a motion to extend the contract by \$52,500.00 and six months for the additional testing of blended cements. Pat Saindon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4b. *Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices*

Sue gave the committee a project update. To date, we have received a Literature Review, Organizational Structural Survey, and User's Survey reports. The project panel is also interested in extending the project to include a BMP rate schedule, Detail Drawings, and a field/contractor manual.

Paul Jagoda/Construction Bureau and Technical Panel representative met with the RRC to discuss and support this contract extension to develop a BMP rate schedule to be used on future construction contracts.

Joel Marshik made a motion to extend the contract by \$18,264.00 to develop a BMP table/rate schedule. Jim Currie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## 5. Proposals:

5a. *AASHTO-Led Long-Term Maintenance of LRFD Specifications* – Pooled Fund Study – Attached

Joe Kolman/Bridge Bureau met with the RRC to discuss and support this pooled-fund study proposal.

The object of this project is to provide timely assistance, in interpreting, implementing, revising, and refining AASHTO's LRFD documents. In April 2002, AASHTO endorsed the Long-Term Maintenance of Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification (LRFD) project with each state being asked to contribute \$20,000.00 per state during year-one and year-three of the four-year study.

Bridge paid for year-one and is asking Research to fund year-three.

Jim Currie made a motion to commit \$20,000.00 of research funds for year-three of this project. Joel Marshik seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5b. *Falling Weight Deflectometer Calibration Centers and Operational Improvements* – Pooled Fund Study – Attached

Jon Watson/Pavement Management and John Amestoy/NDT met with the RRC to discuss and support this proposal.

This proposal was a carry-over from the previous RRC meeting as the committee had questions concerning the alternatives to MDT's participation and whether this project is research or not.

It was stated that 4 or 5 states are supporting this pooled-fund study. It was also stated that FWD is used by many states and the lack of a calibration would create a serious void for a vital function. Dave Galt wondered why more states were not supporting this study.

This proposal was again put on-hold until the next meeting as Joel Marshik will be attending the Annual AASHTO meeting in Alaska and was asked to confer with other

DOT's as to what method of testing they are using and where they are headed with this proposal. Joel will report his findings at the next RRC meeting.

***5c. The Effects of Landscape Features and Transportation Corridors on Movements and Habitat-Use Patterns of Lynx and Wolverine*** - Attached

John Squires of the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station met with the RRC to discuss this proposal for the Technical Panel, which recommended funding for this project.

The purpose of this proposal is to assess wolverine movements relative to vegetation type, topography, roads, and streams. The project will use satellite telemetry to monitor the wolverine's movement patterns.

Dave Galt made a motion to commit \$199,971.00 to fund this project. Joel Marshik seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**6. Implementation:** None

**7. FHWA Technology Transfer Nominations:**

***7a. Research and Evaluate what Other States are doing in the area of Electronic Data Sharing and Integration with FHWA in the area of Financial Management*** – Monte Brown, Administrative Division

There is currently a need for MDT to investigate what other states are doing in the area of electronic financial management data sharing and integration with FHWA. MDT Administration personnel will be visiting North Dakota to discuss these issues. However, Monte would like funding consideration to allow travel to other states.

***7b. Roundabout Design Training*** – Lloyd Rue, FHWA

This request serves to fund roundabout training. Joel suggested if this topic is not successful in obtaining funds through the FHWA's process, Barb Martin could possibly fund it through the training program.

***7c. Updated Safety Training Presentation Materials for the TAP*** – Prudy Hulman, TAP

Prudy Hulman showed the committee current presentation material and explained how she would like to improve and expand upon these materials with FHWA T<sup>2</sup> funds.

**7d. Signal Operations Peer-to-Peer – Lloyd Rue, FHWA**

This would provide reimbursement for a national expert to provide an on-site review of signal operation practices in Montana and help develop an operational framework for a new signal system to meet new emerging standards. After a discussion, Lloyd withdrew this funding request as he felt he could obtain funding elsewhere.

**7e. Safety Management Program – Pierre Jomini, Safety**

Pierre would like to invite Oregon DOT and North Carolina DOT Safety Management staff to Montana to present their programs. The overall goal is to improve MDT's Safety Management Program. Pat Saindon said that Planning will fund this project. Therefore, this request will be withdrawn.

The RRC ranked the remaining three projects. The Financial Management Data Sharing and TAP projects tied for first, with the Roundabout Training project coming in third. All three projects will be submitted to FHWA's national competition. There is \$5,000 available for Montana. If the Financial Management Electronic Data Sharing project is not funded nationally or the \$5,000 is available before the national funds, the Financial Management Electronic Data Sharing project will be funded with Montana's \$5,000.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Bureau w/attachments  
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  
Dave Hill/Environmental Services  
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 w/attachments  
Brooke Page/Research Bureau w/attachments  
Carl S. Peil, P.E./Preconstruction Bureau  
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Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Construction Bureau  
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