

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members  
D. John Blacker, Administrator/Maintenance Division  
Monte N. Brown, Administrator/Administration Division  
Richard B. Clark, Administrator/Information Services 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  
Sandra S. Straehl, Administrator/Transportation Planning Division  
Bob Seliskar/Federal Highway Administration

From: Susan C. Sillick,  
Research Section

Date: February 25, 2004

Subject: Summary of Minutes from Tuesday, February 24, 2004 RRC meeting

The following RRC members were present: John Blacker, Monte Brown, Dick Clark, Jim Currie, Bob Seliskar, and Sue Sillick.

1. **Budget Report** – Attached – No comments
2. **Research Project – current listing** – Attached – No comments
3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request
  - 3a. *Field Evaluation of the Performance of Three Concrete Bridge Decks on Montana Route 243 (HPC – Phase II, Saco)* – Quarterly Progress Report – 10/1/2003 to 12/31/2003
  - 3b. *A Study for the Economic Effects of Reconfiguring Montana's Two-Lane Highways* – Progress Report – December 2003
  - 3c. *Road Sand Management on Highways Adjacent to Streams* (02.004) – Quarterly Progress Report – 10/1/2003 to 12/31/2003
  - 3d. *Bozeman Pass Wildlife Linkage and Highway Safety Pilot Study* – Quarterly Progress Report – 10/01/2003 to 12/31/2003
  - 3e. *Bat Use of Bridge Structures in the MDT Billings District: A Pilot Study* (01.016) – Quarterly Progress Report – 10/01/2003 to 12/31/2003
  - 3f. *LTAP* – Quarterly Progress Report – 10/01/2003 to 12/31/2003

3g. *The Effects of Landscape Features and Transportation Corridors on Movements and Habitat-Use Patterns of Lynx and Wolverine* – Quarterly Progress Report – 10-1-03 to 12-31-03

3h. *Pavement Performance Prediction Models* (98.003) – Progress Report – January 2004

4. **Contract Extensions:** None

5. **Proposals:**

5a. *The Comparison of Animal Detection Systems in a Test-Bed: A Quantitative Comparison of System Reliability and Experiences with Operation and Maintenance* – Attached

Steve Albert and Marcel Huijser from WTI attended the meeting. Marcel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed project.

This purpose of this project is to give MDT the tools to be able to select the most reliable animal detection system and to gain insight in the cost-benefit ratios of different system by evaluating various systems at the same site, under similar controlled circumstances.

This project will cost about \$830,000.00 and requires three-years for completion.

John Blacker made a motion to approve \$60,000.00 funding for this project with two thoughts in mind 1) to continue addressing animal-vehicle conflicts and 2) to help the Lewistown Airport Facility get off the ground, as there are several projects that Maintenance would like to conduct at the facility in the future. Jim Currie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was noted that MDT Engineering and Maintenance staff need to be involved with this project.

6. **Implementation:** None

7. **Research Solicitation:**

**2004 Research Solicitation**

PROB #	SUBJECT	PROBLEM TITLE
04.014	Aeronautics	Air Service
04.016	Environmental	Development of Wildlife Crossing Structures for Small and Large Species and Analysis of Their Effectiveness.
04.018	Transportation Planning/ Engineering	Highway Project Cost Estimating Best Practices
04.019	Traffic Safety	Evaluation of Mitigation Measures to Reduce Open Range Livestock-Vehicle Collisions
04.020	Materials	Determine Properties of Compacted Rap and Rap Mixtures

The compiled District Administrator ratings were discussed. The top rated project was 04.003 - “A Novel Quality Control Technique for Corrosion Inhibited Deicers”.

John Blacker explained that this is a very important project and that it would be going forward. However, he felt it should be a Pooled-Fund Study or addressed through PNS. Therefore, he removed this project from further consideration as an MDT research project.

The DA’s second rated project was 04.012 – “An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Advanced Warning Flashing Signals in the Reduction of Accidents at High-Speed Signalized Intersections”. Dave Galt removed this project from consideration at the January 2004 RRC meeting. Jim Currie suggested Sue set up a meeting with Dave Galt, Joel Marshik, and Jim Currie to discuss a different approach - determining the best method(s) for advanced warning flashing signals.

The DA’s lowest rated topic, 04.005 – “Locomotive 12, Virginia City, Montana” was also removed from consideration during the January 2004 RRC meeting.

Questions then surfaced concerning project 04.019. It was decided to put this project on hold and revisit it after gathering more information.

John Blacker made a motion to move forward the entire project listing (see above table) with the exception of 04.019, which is on hold pending clarification. Dick Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sue asked the committee for Technical Panel member suggestions.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Section w/attachments  
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division  
Suzy Althof/Contract Plans Bureau  
Brooke Amestoy/Research Section w/attachments  
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Materials Bureau  
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings  
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration Bureau  
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte  
Loran Frazier, P.E./District Administrator-Missoula  
Dave Hill/Environmental Services Bureau  
John Horton/Right-of-Way Bureau  
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Bureau  
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls  
Joseph P. Kolman, P.E./Bridge Bureau  
Russell G. McDonald/Human Resources Division  
Ray Mengel/District Administrator-Glendive  
Victoria A. Murphy, CPA, CFE/Highway and Engineering Division  
Jeanne Nydegger/Research Section w/attachments  
Carl S. Peil, P.E./Preconstruction Bureau  
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services  
James A. Walther, P.E./Highway and Engineering Division  
Duane E. Williams, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau  
Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Highway and Engineering Division  
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