

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: July 8, 2004

Subject: Summary of Minutes from June 29, 2004 RRC Meeting

The following RRC members were present: John Blacker, Dick Clark, Joel Marshik, Bob Seliskar, Sandy Straehl, and Sue Sillick.

1. **Budget Report** – Attached – No additional comments
2. **Research Project – current listing** – Attached – No additional comments
3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request
 - 3a. *A Study for the Economic Effects of Reconfiguring Montana's Two-Lane Highways* – Progress Report – April 2004
 - 3b. *Pavement Performance Predictions Models* (98.003) – Progress Report – May 2004
 - 3c. *Fish Passage at Road Crossings in Montana Watersheds Providing Bull and Cutthroat Trout Habitat* – Progress Reports – May 21 and 28, 2004
 - 3d. *Evaluation of Biodiesel Fuel* – Progress Report – May 2004
4. **Contract Extensions:** None

5. Proposals: Attached

5a. *Fish Passage in Montana Culverts Phase II – Passage Goals*

Joel Cahoon, P.E., Ph.D./MSU-Bozeman presented work to date on Phase I and discussed the Phase II project.

The primary object of Phase II is to determine the rate and timing of fish passage in culverts that is desirable for species diversity maintenance.

The benefits to be derived from Phase II are as follows:

- 1) Overly conservative contemporary tools for estimating fish passage in culverts can lead to the design of excessively costly installations, as well as make it difficult to set priorities. The results of this project will allow designers and planners to arrive at more cost effective, but still fish friendly, roadway water crossings.
- 2) The project results will further refine our ability to relate the biological capabilities of fish passage success.

Joel Marshik made a motion to approve Phase II approving \$149,2166.00. Sandy Straehl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5b. *Determine Current Rates of Motor Fuel Tax Evasion in the State of Montana*

Bob Turner/Administration Division attended the meeting on behalf of the Technical Panel.

The RRC had previously approved this project in concept and the Technical Panel recommended this project for funding.

The propose of this project is to investigate motor fuel tax evasion and determine how Montana can increase decrease fuel tax invasion.

Sandy Straehl recommended adding an expert from Industry to the Technical Panel. This will be done.

Dick Clark moved to fund this project for \$191,078.00. Monte Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Implementation/Technology Transfer: None

With no additional business to come before the RRC, the meeting adjourned.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Section w/attachments
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division
Suzy Althof/Contract Plans Bureau
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration Bureau
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte
Paul R. Ferry, P.E./Highways Bureau
Loran Frazier, P.E./District Administrator-Missoula
John Horton/Right-of-Way Bureau
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Bureau
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls
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
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services
Jean A. Riley, P.E./Environmental Services Bureau
James A. Walther, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division
Duane E. Williams, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau
Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division
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