

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: October 19, 2004

Subject: Summary of Minutes from September 28, 2004 RRC Meeting

The following RRC members were present: John Blacker, Monte Brown, Jim Currie, Joel Marshik, Drew Livesay, and Sue Sillick.

1. Budget Report

Sue distributed and explained a SFY and FFY summary budget sheet and asked for comments.

No comments were given.

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 – May 2004

3b. *Pavement Performance Prediction Models (98.003)* – Progress Report – July and August 2004

3c. *Rockfall Hazard Classification and Mitigation Systems (01.015)* – Progress Report – June 2004

3d. *Why did the Turtle Cross the Road? Consequences of a Highway on Painted Turtle Populations in Montana* – Progress Report – July 2004

3e. *Evaluation of Biodiesel Fuel* – Progress Reports – June, July, and August 2004

3f. *High Performance Concrete Mix Design* – Phase III – Progress Report – July 2004

3g. *Ride Specification Review* – Progress Report – July 2004

3h. *Implementation Plan for Wildlife Mitigation Measures Along Highway 83 in the Seeley-Swan Valley, Montana: Animal-Vehicle Collisions and Habitat Connectivity* - Progress Report – July 2004

3i. *Field Evaluation of the Performance of Three Concrete Bridge Decks on Montana Route 24 (HPC – Phase II, Saco)* – Progress Report – March and July 2004

3j. *Evaluation of Organic Matter Addition and Incorporation on Steep Cut Slopes, Phase II* (98.019) – Progress Report – July 2004

3k. *Methods for Determining Bankfull Discharge and other Flood Discharges for Ungaged Sites in Western Montana Based on Channel Morphology* – June 2004

3l. *Evaluation of Methods for Estimation of Bridge-Pier Scour for Streams with Coarse Bed Materials Based on Observed Pier Scour In Montana* – June 2004

3m. *Hydraulic Characteristics of the Upper Yellowstone River, Montana* – June 2004

3n. *Investigation of Soil Air Voids Test for use in Compaction Control* – September 2004

3o. *Use of Montana Highway Structures by Bats* – April and July 2004

3p. *Traffic Noise in Montana: Community Awareness and Recommendations for a Rural State* – Final Report – FHWA/MT-04-007/8172

4. **Contract Extensions:** None

5. **Proposals:**

5a. *Midwest States Pooled Fund Pavement Preservation* – Pooled Fund Study

Mike Bousliman/Maintenance was present to support this proposal.

The purpose of this pooled-fund study is to share pavement preservation best management practices and facilitate pavement preservation technology transfer.

John Blacker made a motion to contribute \$5,000.00 a year for each of the 3-years or \$15,000.00. Joel Marshik seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5b. *Evaluation of Low Cost Safety Improvements* – Pooled Fund Study

Pierre Jomini, P.E./Safety Management attended the meeting to discuss this proposal.

Pierre recommends participation in this study for the following reasons:

1. With our vast roadway network and limited funds, we need to follow-up on low cost safety improvement effectiveness. We need to find out what improvements give the greatest return on the money.
2. Numerous crash reduction factors are based on studies from several decades ago. It would be beneficial to have more recent effectiveness data.
3. Such studies typically do not consider the difficulties to document safety effectiveness with low volume rural roads. We would like to see a differentiation for effectiveness factors in rural versus urban, in low volume versus high volume areas. Similarly, are there regional differences in effectiveness?
4. We would hope to learn more about effectiveness evaluations. Should the effectiveness evaluate the overall crash reduction and/or the effectiveness for the identified crash trend. For example some studies have applied the effectiveness of rumble strips for all single vehicle off road crashes, others to all crashes, Montana has only considered single vehicle off road crashes under dry or wet pavement conditions.
5. Finally we would be interested in the methodology used to evaluate the effectiveness of policy decisions.

Jim Currie made a motion to participate in this 3-year study at \$30,000.00 per year. Monte Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was noted that MDT should participate in this pooled-fund study on a yearly basis. If at anytime, MDT is not satisfied with the results, funding for future years should not be obligated.

6. Implementation/Technology Transfer:

6a. *Traffic Noise in Montana: Community Awareness and Recommendations for a Rural State* – Final Report – FHWA/MT-04-007/8172

Cora Helm/Environmental Services Bureau, Chairperson of the Research Technical Panel, was invited to present the final report to the committee. She discussed the results of this effort and the potential implementation measures. This document will be distributed statewide to local planners and urban groups.

This research has laid excellent groundwork to build upon for noise-compatible planning and development. The following are a few of the recommendations from the report:

- Further investigating the possibility of implementing a Type II noise abatement program. If MDT subsequently decides to pursue a Type II program, it is recommended that a priority system be developed for deciding the order in which neighborhoods should be selected for abatement.
- Continuing to take the lead in educating legislators, local decision-makers, developers, builders, and other stakeholders on the problem of traffic noise and solution of noise-compatible planning and development.
- Encouraging local governments to adopt noise-compatible planning and development.

7. Additional Discussion Items:

Sue noted that the *Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety: A Case Study in Lewistown, MT - Phase I* project was contracted as per Dave Galt's request

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

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Section
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
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services
Jean A. Riley, P.E./Environmental Services Bureau
Matt Strizich, P.E./Materials 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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