

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division
D. John Blacker, Administrator/Maintenance Division
Mike Bousliman, Administrator/Information Services Division
Monte N. Brown, Administrator/Administration Division
Robert E. Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration
Jim Currie, Deputy Director/Department of Transportation
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte
Loran Frazier, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division
Drew F. Livesay, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division
Jim Lynch, Director/Department of Transportation
Priscilla Sinclair/Traffic Safety
Sandra S. Straehl, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager
Research Programs

Date: December 20, 2006

Subject: Summary of Minutes from the December 12, 2006 RRC Meeting

The following RRC members were present: Debbie Alke, John Blacker, Mike Bousliman, Monte Brown, Bob Burkhardt, Bill Cloud (for Sandy Straehl), Jeff Ebert, and Sue Sillick.

1. **Budget Report**

Sue reported that pending expenditures for the: Bozeman Pass Wildlife Linkage and Highway Safety Study and Proposal contract extension (4a) and Transportation Noise Model pooled fund proposal (5a) are reflected in the budget attached to the agenda.

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

3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

3a. **Evaluation of Organic Matter Addition and Incorporation on Steep Cut Slopes**
(98.019) – Progress Report – September 2006

3b. **LTAP** – Progress Report – September 2006

3c. **A High Fidelity Driving Simulator as a Tool for Design and Evaluation of Highway Infrastructure Upgrade** – Progress Report - June and September 2006

3d. **Wildlife-Highway Crossing Mitigation Measures and Associated Costs/Benefits: A Toolbox for Montana Department of Transportation** – Progress Report – October 2006

4. **Contract Extensions**

4a. **Bozeman Pass Wildlife Linkage and Highway Safety Study**

Bonnie Steg/Environmental Services met with the RRC to present this contract extension request.

The purpose of this research contract extension request is to allow for an additional year of monitoring.

As a side issue, it has been proposed that \$15,000.00 of the remaining ITS earmark funds be used to purchase or repair a DMS and a DMS be placed at the end of Rocky Canyon for two months during the fall to help reduce animal-vehicle collisions. John Blacker is against this proposal to place a DMS at Rocky Canyon for two months out of each year. This issue is outside of the realm of the Research Program as the ITS earmark is not managed by Research staff, and will need to be resolved between MDT and FHWA.

Monte Brown made a motion to fund \$29,073.00 for additional monitoring at Bozeman Pass. Debbie Alke seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in favor of the motion.

5. **Proposals:**

5a. **Transportation Noise Model – Pooled Fund Study**

Cora Helm/Environmental Services attended the meeting to discuss this proposal.

The objective of this study is to upgrade FHWA's TNM Version 3.0 Software by: 1) Enhancing the graphical using interface (GUI), 2) Correcting known software bugs, and 3) Enhancing functionality.

This will be accomplished through a pooled-fund study. A Design Review Group (DRG) made up of representatives from the participating state DOTs will work with FHWA to identify and help prioritize additional software enhancements.

Several questions pertaining to this pooled-fund study arose: 1) what assumptions were used to develop a budget; 2) was AASHTOWARE considered for software development; and 3) what is the detailed scope-of-work.

As these questions remain unanswered, it was decided to address this proposal at a later date.

6a. **Air Service (04.014) – Presentation of results.**

Pam Keidel-Adams and Sara Arnold / Wilbur Smith Associates presented the final research results.

The Study presented a historical framework from which to understand changes in air service. With the framework established, an analysis of national and state trends was conducted to set the stage for determining the opportunities and challenges in improving air service in Montana. Airport infrastructure needs intermodal concerns, and long-range transportation policy issues were considered as they relate to development of a strategy for air service enhancements. Finally, a statewide marketing strategy was identified that documents considerations for improvements. Performance measures were also developed that can be used to monitor the performance air service as changes continue.

Debbie Alke thanked the contractor and Craig Abernathy. She said this report will be of great value to the Aeronautics Division.

7. Department/Division Hot Topics – RRC Members Roundtable Discussion

Jeff Ebert wanted to thank Lisa for the information that she had sent him pertaining to traffic flow issues.

cc: Craig L. Abernathy/Research Programs
Lisa Autio/Research Program
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings
Keven Christensen/Highways and Engineering Division
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration-Bureau
Mike Dyrdaahl/Highways and Engineering Division
Paul R. Ferry, P.E./Highways Bureau
John Horton/Right-of-Way Bureau
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Bureau
Jennifer Jensen/Human Resources Division
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls
Dwane Kailey, P.E./District Administrator-Missoula
Ray Mengel/District Administrator-Glendive
Jeanne Nydegger/Research Programs
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau
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
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Mark A. Wissinger, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division
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