

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: August 24, 2006

Subject: Summary of Minutes from May 30, 2006 RRC Meeting.

The following RRC members were present: Debbie Alke, John Blacker, Mike Bousliman, Monte Brown, Jim Currie, Jeff Ebert, Drew Livesay, Priscilla Sinclair, Sue Sillick, and Dick Turner (for Sandy Straehl).

Sue introduced Lisa Autio, who filled the Librarian position. Please let Lisa know if you need a literature search, library publications, or how she can meet other information needs.

1. **Budget Report** – A revised cover sheet was handed out to reflect projects pending the outcome of this meeting.

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

2a. Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety: Phase 3 - A Case Study in Lewistown, Montana.

This project was approved by e-mail ballot with 8 votes for, 0 votes against, and 5 no votes.

3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

3a. Preventive Maintenance Treatments: A Synthesis of Highway Practice – Progress Report – February 2006

3b. *Warm Water Species Fish Passage in Eastern Montana Culverts* – Progress Report – March 2006

3c. *Fish Passage in Montana Culverts: Phase II Passage Goals* – Progress Report – March 2006

3d. *Experimental Assessment of Aggregate Surfacing Materials* – Progress Report March 2006

3e. *Comparative Analysis of Coarse Surfacing Aggregate Using Micro-Deval, L.A. Abrasion and Sulfate Soundness Tests* – Progress Reports – December 2005 and March 2006

3f. *Habitat Connectivity and Rural Context Sensitive Design: A Synthesis of Practice* – Progress Report – April 2006

3g. *Evaluation of Organic Matter Addition and Incorporation on Steep Cut Slopes: Phase II* (98.019) – Progress Report – March 2006

3h. *Potential Effects of Highway Mortality and Habitat Fragmentation on a Population of Painted Turtles in Montana* – Progress Report – April 2006

3i. *LTAP* – Progress Report – March 2006

3j. *Axial Capacity of Piles Supported on Intermediate Geomaterials* – Progress Report – April 2006

3k. *Ride Specification Review – Summary Report 8179* – distributed at meeting

4. **Contract Extensions:**

4a. *Montana Air Service: Challenges and Opportunities Additional Services* –

Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division discussed this extension with the RRC.

Several significant changes to Montana's air service environment occurred after data collection for this project. These changes affect not only the data presented in the report, but potentially the findings as well. Given the depth of changes to the air service environment, an update of the document to present calendar year 2005 information was requested.

Monte Brown made a motion to extend this contract to include fall 2005 data, and to allocate an additional \$40,540.00. Drew Livesay seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jim Currie abstained as he was not present for the discussion.

5. **Proposals:**

5a. *LTAP Work Plan*

Steve Jenkins, Director/Local Technical Assistant Program attended the meeting to present this year's work plan and answer questions.

Steve showed the RRC the new Traffic Control Supervisors manual that was recently completed; in addition he spoke of other courses being offered.

Debbie discussed with Steve the possibility of coordinating their winter survival course. They will discuss further.

The FHWA LTAP appropriation was increased from \$140,000.00 to \$170,000.00. Steve is requesting \$68,000.00 in SPR, an increase of \$9,000.00 to meet the required match.

Jim Currie indicated he was not happy paying 20% IDC to the Universities. He would like their rate to be more in line with our rate. Sue will begin discussions with UM and MSU

Jim Currie made a motion to approve the LTAP work plan and budget. Debbie Alke seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

5b. *High Performance Concrete (HPC) Mixture Specification Development*

Kent Barnes/Bridge Bureau attended the meeting to present this proposal.

The initial goal of this project is to provide MDT with a performance-based specification for HPC that will be used for placement in bridge decks. This specification may also be used for other PCCP applications but only after experience in decks has been gained.

The proposed work in the development of these specifications is divided into three tasks: HPC Specifications, Quality Control Plan, and Implementation Support.

Jim Currie made a motion to fund this project for \$20,000.00. John Blacker seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

5c. *Subsurface Drainage for Landslide and Slope Stabilization – Pooled Fund Study*

Matt Strizich/Materials Bureau presented this proposal.

The objectives of this research are as follows: 1) To provide best practices and guidance for subsurface drainage applications for slope stabilization, including subsurface investigation and testing, groundwater-flow characterizations, analysis, drain configurations and design, installation methods, monitoring, and maintenance and 2) To evaluate new applications of existing materials and technologies, such as trenchless technologies (horizontal directional

drilling, micro tunneling, guided boring, etc.) and other innovative technologies and materials, for stabilizing slopes using subsurface drainage.

Jim Currie made a motion to contribute \$20,000.00 (\$5,000.00 a year for four years) to this study. John Blacker seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

5d. Tire/Pavement Noise Research Consortium – Pooled Fund Study

Cora Helm and Stan Sternberg/Environmental Bureau attended the meeting in support of contributing \$10,000.00 to this project. Matt Strizich/Materials Bureau also spoke in favor of joining this consortium.

This project will provide a forum for states to discuss tire/pavement noise issues and develop a proposed research plan. This pooled-fund study will allow multi state agencies and industries to perform tire/pavement research, avoid duplication, and share data. The ultimate goal is to incorporate pavement type into the FHWA Traffic Noise Model.

John Blacker made a motion to participate and contribute \$10,000.00 to this study. Monte Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

6. Implementation/Technology Transfer:

6a. Impact Analysis of Construction Quality of Life-Cycle Performance of Pavements (Ride Specification)

Matt Strizich/Materials Bureau spoke about the implementation of this project.

Matt Strizich said he was very pleased with this project; it was a success mainly due to Sirous (Principle Investigator) and Sierra Transportation Engineers, Inc (STE). Sue indicated STE is the best consultant with which she has worked. The customer is put first and STE is willing to bend over backwards and go above and beyond to make the customer happy.

Products, in addition to the final report delivered with is project, are revised ride specification, revised test method (MT422), Profiler Operations Manual, and QC/QA plan. These products will be implemented with the September 2006 bid letting.

7. MDT/WTI Working Group Update

There are currently nine working groups.

Mobility and Public Transportation (March 17) – Three high priority topics were identified: 1) Automated cost recovery for transit providers, 2) Integration of job access and reverse commute and new freedom provisions into MDT is existing business process, and 3) Synthesis of funding for and operation of intercity transit systems.

Due to staffing limitations, the committee is moving forward with the automated cost recovery for transit providers at this time. The first meeting for this project was held May 24, 2006. WTI is preparing a proposal.

Road Ecology (March 24) – No high priority topics were identified. However, Environmental is discussing some possibilities such as 1) Deer composting evaluation, 2) Wildlife, fisheries, and storm water runoff evaluations on US 191, 3) Aquatic life passage needs, and 4) Wildlife crossing structures design standards.

Systems Engineering, Development, and Integration (April 17) – Two high priority topics were identified; however, they do not appear to be eligible for SPR funding: 1) Development of an enterprise interoperability plan, and 2) Development of a primer on C/B analysis for the development of business cases. Those areas may choose to fund these projects.

Logistics and Freight Management (April 18) – WTI will host a workshop bringing together the stakeholders that need to be involved in discussions on this topic.

Infrastructure Maintenance and Materials (April 20) – Three high priority topics were identified for further discussion. 1) Integral abutments, 2) Silane effectiveness, and 3) Use of geosynthetics to reduce the base course.

Weather and Winter Maintenance (April 25) – Five items were identified for further discussion and will also be discussed at PNS in mid-June 1) Performance measures for anti/deicing chemicals, 2) Anti/deicer dilution rates, 3) Florescent markers for corrosion inhibitors, 4) Corrosion inhibitors from agriculture byproducts and 5) Development of a corrosivity test protocol. A meeting on the last topic was held April 10, 2006 and another is scheduled June 19, 2006.

Safety and Operations Working Group - will meet June 15, 2006.

Education Working Group - will meet July 17, 2006.

Transportation Planning and Economics Working Group - needs to be rescheduled as soon as WTI staff provide available dates.

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

John Blacker – More and more states are using a 6 inch stripe. Need to weigh costs and benefits.

Jim Currie – Asked about the Weeds to Web project. The Technical Panel met and felt it was not worthwhile to pursue. Representatives then met with Jim Lynch, Jim Currie, Loran Frazier, and Vickie Murphy. Jim Lynch asked the Technical Panel to discuss concerns with the researcher. This was done; however, the Technical Panel felt due to low implementation potential, inability to identify new/small infestations, low accuracy, time to obtain data, and cost to implement. It didn't make sense to move forward with this research.

Monte Brown – Concern about a decline in gas tax revenues. He would be interested in a study as to what price drivers will buy enough less gas to impact gas tax revenues. Norma Nickerson/UM was suggested as a possible resource.

Priscilla Sinclair – The Highway Traffic Safety Office has applied for the section 408 traffic records data grant that became available from SAFETEA-LU. This grant allows the state the opportunity to connect the major traffic records data system throughout the state which includes Office of Public Instruction, MT Department of Justice, MT Highway Patrol, etc who have a vested interest in traffic records information. In FFY 2006, the state will receive \$300,000.00 of this grant funding and then \$500,000.00 or more in subsequent years through FFY 2009.

Highway Traffic Safety also will receive Section 410 alcohol funds to help pay for projects that counter the increasing problems of drinking and driving in Montana. The first funding amount from this grant later in FFY 2006 will be approximately \$1.7 million.

cc: Craig L. Abernathy/Research Programs
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau
Lisa Autio/Research Program
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau
Bruce H. Barrett/District Administrator-Billings
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration-Bureau
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
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