

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division
D. John Blacker, Administrator/Maintenance Division
Mike Bousliman, Administrator/Information Services Division
Monte N. Brown, Operations Manager/Business Process Solutions Unit
Robert E. Burkhardt/Federal Highway Administration
Jim Currie, Deputy Director/Department of Transportation
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte
Larry Flynn, Administrator/Administration Division
Loran Frazier, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division
Jim Lynch, Director/Department of Transportation
Dennis Sheehy, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division
Jerry Stephens, P.E./WTI MSU
Sandra S. Straehl, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager
Research Programs

Date: October 29, 2008

Subject: Summary of Minutes from the October 28, 2008 RRC Meeting

The following RRC members were present: John Blacker, Mike Bousliman, Bob Burkhardt, Jeff Ebert, Loran Frazier, Dennis Sheehy, Jerry Stephens, Sue Sillick, and Dick Turner for Sandy Straehl.

1. **Budget Report – Attached**

The budget report was attached to the agenda; there was no discussion.

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

The research project listing was distributed with the agenda. Sue announced that the Cut Slope Composting proposal, which went out for an e-mail ballot was approved. Eleven of 14 RRC members voted; all voted in favor of funding the project. The final executed contract was sent to MSU on 10/27. Construction of test plots is scheduled for the week of 11/3.

3. **Reports: Available Upon Request**

3a. **Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring** – Progress Report – August 2008 and September 2008

3b. Field Investigation of Geosynthetics Used for Subgrade Stabilization – Progress Report – June 2008

3c. LTAP – Progress Report – June 2008

No discussion on these reports.

4. Contract Extensions: None

5. Proposals:

5a. Measurement and Evaluation of Subgrade Soil Parameters: Phase I – Synthesis of Literature - Attached

Rich Jackson was present to discuss this proposal, which was recommended for funding by the project technical panel.

A critical component of pavement design involves a thorough and reliable characterization of the subgrade. MDT uses the R-value test to quantify the suitability of soils for subgrade strength; however, this test may yield unsatisfactory or inconsistent results. The purpose of this phase I project is to provide a synthesis of the state of the practice on this topic. Specific tasks include: review literature; conduct a state of the practice survey; and if applicable, prepare a scope for a Phase II testing and evaluation project.

Mike B. made a motion to fund this project for \$31,803. Loran F. seconded the motion. All present voted for the motion; the motion passed.

5b. Impact of Canadian Economic Development on Northern Montana Highways – Attached

Dick Turner was present to discuss this proposal. The scope of work was previously approved by the RRC. An RFP was issued and the proposal section committee chose HDR as the best proposal to be presented to the RRC for funding approval. Dick explained that this team was the team for the TRED study and is an excellent team.

This project is for a Phase I study to evaluate current and projected Canadian economic activity and the associated commercial traffic that generates into Montana's highways and US-Canada border crossings. The border crossings to be considered in this study stretch from the Port of Coumts-Sweet Grass to the Port of Regway-Raymond. The indication is that truck traffic will increase tremendously if ports move to 24 hour operation. Jeff asked why the western posts were not involved in this study. Dick said that they already open 24 hours and would not see a large change in traffic and the panel felt the majority of growth would occur in the plains.

Dennis S. made a motion to fund this project for \$199,782.59. John B. seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

6. Implementation/Technology Transfer

6a. Evaluation of the Montana Department of Transportation's Research Project Solicitation, Prioritization, and Selection Process -

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/docs/research_proj/research_eval/final_report.pdf

Please bring your copy that was distributed with the August 2008 RRC Agenda.

This topic has been on the RRC agenda for the last two meetings. However, not all critical attendees have been present. Sue proposed sending information and materials out via e-mail to initiate discussion on this topic. The RRC members present agreed.

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

Jerry S. announced that there will be an open house on Friday (10/31) to showcase the 5 new cold rooms. These cold rooms are available to conduct large scale, cold weather research in maintenance and civil engineering. These rooms can get down to -40° F. John B. expressed an interest in looking at cold weather chip sealing and deicing materials. Loran F. indicated he toured the rooms a few weeks ago and felt they are a good addition to the MSU research facilities.

cc: Craig L. Abernathy/Research Programs
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau
Kevin Christensen/Highways and Engineering Division
Krystal Clark/Research Programs
Tim Conway, P.E./Consultant Design Bureau
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration-Bureau
Mike Dyr Dahl/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
Tom Martin, P.E./ Environmental Services Bureau
Ray Mengel/District Administrator-Glendive
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau
Timothy W. Reardon/Legal Services
Stefan Streeter, P.E. /District Administrator-Billings
Matt Strizich, P.E./Materials Bureau
James A. Walther, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division
Duane E. Williams, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau
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