

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division
D. John Blacker, Deputy Director
Mike Bousliman, Operations Manager
Monte N. Brown, Operations Manager/Business Process Solutions Unit
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte
Larry Flynn, Administrator/Administration Division
Loran Frazier, P.E., Administrator/Highway and Engineering Division
Jennifer Jensen, Operations Manager
Dwane Kailey, Operations Manager
Jim Lynch, Director
Bob Seliskar/FHWA
Dennis Sheehy, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division
Jerry Stephens, P.E./WTI MSU
Jon Swartz, Acting Administrator/Maintenance Division
Lynn Zanto, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager
Research Programs

Date: July 8, 2009

Subject: 5/26/2009 RRC Meeting Agenda (9:00 a.m. MDTCNF Commission Room)

Action items are in red.

RRC Members Present: Debbie Alke, John Blacker, Mike Bousliman, Monte Brown, Jeff Ebert (represented by Chuck Reynolds, Butte Maintenance Superintendent), Larry Flynn, Jennifer Jensen, Dwane Kailey, Dennis Sheehy (represented by Dennis Hult), Jerry Stephens, Jon Swartz, and Lynn Zanto (represented by Bill Cloud).

RRC Members Absent: Loran Frazier, Jim Lynch, and Bob Seliskar.

Others Present: Pat Basting, Dale Becker/CSKT, Whisper Camel/CSKT, Eli Cuelho/WTI, Chris Dorrington, Cora Helm, Marcel Huijser/WTI, Steve Jenkins/MSU, and Mark Zitzka/FHWA.

1. **Budget Report:** Attached

No discussion.

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

No discussion on research project listing.

- 2a. **Land Use Planning for Traffic Noise Training (09.010) – SOW**
presentation with follow-up e-mail ballot – Cora Helm

Cora Helm presented the scope of work for this project. This proposal, currently under review by the Technical Panel, either will be sent to the RRC for funding approval in an e-mail ballot or will be on the June RRC meeting agenda for funding approval as soon as the Technical Panel, which includes local representation, recommends the proposal for funding.

This project is an implementation effort of a previous project through which a local planning document titled *Growing Neighborhoods in Growing Corridors: Land use Planning For Highway Noise* was developed. The purpose of this new project is to develop training for local planners to facilitate the planning for highway noise; training will be provided on the above document and the MDT Highway Noise Policy. Based on a recent Technical Panel discussion, two sets of training materials will be developed: 1) A one-hour overview session for city and county executives and 2) An approximate 6 hour training session for local planners. The first session will be given by Cora in September and October at a number of venues, including Montana League of Cities and Towns annual meeting, Montana Association of Counties annual meeting, and the Montana Association of Planners annual meeting. The second session will be given by the consultant at approximately 4 locations in Montana in November.

- 2b. **Montana Rest Area Usage: Data Acquisition and Usage Estimation (09.003) – SOW**
presentation with follow-up e-mail ballot – Chris Dorrington

Chris Dorrington presented the scope of work for this project. The proposal, which is currently under Technical Panel review, will be sent to the RRC for funding approval in an e-mail ballot as soon as the Technical Panel recommends the proposal for funding.

The objective of this research is the development of Montana-specific rest area usage guidelines with respect to water usage, effluent flow and traffic (vehicles, patrons) to allow MDT to take an asset management approach to rest areas.

3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request

No discussion.

- 3a. **Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring** – Progress Reports – February, March, and April 2009
- 3b. **Ground Penetrating Radar Analysis (08.013)**-Progress Report – March 2009
- 3c. **Highway Project Cost Estimating and Management (04.018)** – Final Report – FHWA/MT-08-007/8189
- 3d. **Impact of Increased Canadian Economic Development on Northern Montana Highways (08.002)** – Progress Reports – January, February, and March 2009
- 3e. **Keep Encouraging Young Drive Safety (KEYS) Pilot Study: Increasing Parental Involvement in Teenage Driving Through Driver Education (08.015)** – Progress Reports – December 2008 and March 2009
- 3f. **LTAP** – March 2009 Quarterly Progress Report
- 3g. **Measurement and Evaluation of Subgrade Soil Parameters, Phase 1: Synthesis of Literature (08.010)** – Progress Report – March 2009
- 3h. **Montana US 93 South Wildlife Crossings Research (04.016)** – Progress Reports – February and April 2009
- 3i. **Smart Transportation and Land Use Planning (07.014)** – Progress Reports – January, February, March, and April 2009; Technical Memorandum #1
- 3j. **Steep Cut Slope Composting: Field Trials and Evaluation (05.010)** – Post Construction and Progress Reports - March 2009

4. **Contract Extensions:** None

5. **Proposals:**

- 5a. **LTAP Work Plan and Budget** – Steve Jenkins

Steve Jenkins presented his work plan. He announced that beginning 7/1/09, LTAP will be under WTI and Steve Jenkins will report to Steve Albert. Jerry Stephens added that this organizational change will allow

increased collaborations such that both LTAP and WTI can benefit, as well as their customers.

John Blacker said that we really haven't seen any changes to the LTAP work plan in years. He made a motion for the RRC to table the LTAP work plan to allow Steve Jenkins and Steve Albert to discuss where they see LTAP going in SFY 2010 and in the future. What changes can we expect with the forthcoming organizational change? **John asked Sue to setup a meeting among MDT executive Management, WTI, and LTAP to discuss these issues.** The motion was seconded by Mike Bousliman. The motion passed with all present voting in favor of the motion.

5b. **US 93 Post-Construction Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and Wildlife Crossing Monitoring and Research** – Pat Basting

Pat Basting was present to discuss this proposal. He indicated that this proposal is for post-construction monitoring of the US 93 North projects. Previously, a pre-construction monitoring project was completed (see http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/env/wildlife_crossing.shtml). The post-construction monitoring is five years to allow for better resolution of differences in collisions and crossings, and continues with the same monitoring as was conducted in the preconstruction project. The project cost is \$1,565,686.

Mark Zitzka indicated the biological experts at FHWA feel the research can be scaled back. Mark also said FHWA felt they could contribute \$100,000 toward this effort.

John Blacker also indicated he feels the price tag is too high and the project needs to be scaled back.

Dwane Kailey would like the proposal presented to the Technical Design Committee (TDC); Pat Basting and Dale Becker indicated it has been presented to the TDC. Dale also indicated the CSKT is submitting proposals to obtain additional funding for this project.

Jerry Stephens indicated WTI plans on contributing \$50,000-\$75,000/year to this study.

Dwane made a motion, which was seconded by Mike to table this proposal until input on scaling the project back can be provided by the management team. The motion passed with all present voting in favor of the motion.

Sue will set up a meeting with Dwane, Mike, and Pat Basting to discuss and obtain management input regarding the project scope.

5c. **Best Management Practices to Mitigate Burrowing Mammal Impacts on Paved Highways (07.010)** – Craig Abernathy for Jeff Ebert

Craig presented the proposal, which is being recommended for funding by the project Technical Panel. This project came about because Butte District is having problems with mammals burrowing into the roadside and causing pavement problems. Research staff queried other states and Canadian provinces to determine if there was an existing solution to this problem. Other areas indicated they had the same problem, but had no solutions. The project entails a state of the practice assessment and interviews, literature review, and development of best practice recommendations. The project cost is \$62,000.

Mike made a motion to phase this project, with phase 1 being literature review, state of the practice assessment and interviews, and site visits. Phase 2 would include the toolkit development. Monte Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion. **WTI will revise the proposal accordingly.**

6. **Implementation/Technology Transfer:**

6a. **TRANSCEND Presentation** – Eli Cuelho/WTI

Eli Cuelho presented information on TRANSCEND, a new WTI facility available for research. Facilities include: 230 acres with 4 miles of test track, winter testing environment with snow making equipment, roadside animal detection system test bed, data acquisition and communication infrastructure, heated garage space, and human subjects handling. Eli sees this facility as a natural part of the testing process from lab, to TRANSCEND, to field evaluations. See <http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/laboratories/transcend/> for more information on TRANSCEND. **Mike agreed to help Eli make contacts with AASHTO committees to further market these facilities.**

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

No discussion.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Programs
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau
Kevin Christensen/Highways and Engineering Division
Kris Christensen/Research Programs
Tim Conway, P.E./Consultant Design Bureau
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
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls
Tom Martin, P.E./ Environmental Services Bureau
Ray Mengel/District Administrator-Glendive
Doug Moeller/District Administrator-Missoula
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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