

MEMORANDUM

To: RRC Members  
Debbie Alke, Administrator/Aeronautics Division  
Mike Bousliman, Administrator/Information Services Division  
Jeffery M. Ebert, P.E./District Administrator-Butte  
Larry Flynn, Administrator/Administration Division  
Dwane Kailey, Administrator/Highways and Engineering Division  
Tim Reardon, Director  
Bob Seliskar/FHWA  
Jerry Stephens, P.E./WTI MSU  
Jon Swartz, Administrator/Maintenance Division  
Duane Williams, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division  
Lynn Zanto, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager  
Research Programs

Date: January 23, 2013

Subject: 12/12/2012 RRC Meeting Notes

1. **Budget Report:** Attached
2. **Research Projects – current listing:** Attached
3. **Reports:** Available Upon Request
  - a. **2012 Montana Summer Transportation Institute** – Final Report
  - b. **Assessing the Extent and Determinates of Induced Growth** (10-016) – Task 3 and 5 Reports
  - c. **Determination of Material Properties and Deflection Behaviors for Contemporary Prestressed Beam Design** (10-009) – September 2012 Progress Report
  - d. **Evaluation of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions and Habitat Connectivity in the Madison Valley** (11-007) – August and October 2012 Progress Reports
  - e. **Feasibility of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) in Portland Cement Concrete Pavements (PCCP)** (09.004) – August and October 2012 Progress Reports
  - f. **LTAP** – October 2012 Progress Report
  - g. **Peer-to-Peer Traffic Safety Campaign Program** (11-009) – October 2012 Progress Report
  - h. **Re-evaluation of Montana’s Air Quality Program** (11-006) – Task 2 Report
  - i. **Relative Operational Performance of Geosynthetics Used as Subgrade Stabilization** (10-008) – September 2012 Progress Report
  - j. **Steel Pipe Pile/Concrete Pile Cap Bridge Support Systems : Confirmation of Connection Performance – Phase III** (09.016) – Final Report
  - k. **US 93 N Post Construction WVC and Wildlife Crossing Monitoring** – 3 Progress Reports
  - l. **US 93 S Wildlife Structure Monitoring** (04-016) – July 2012 Progress Report

#### 4. **Proposals:** Attached

##### a. **Information/Educational Campaign for Roundabouts** (12-023) – Attached

Ivan Ulberg attended to present this synthesis proposal for the project technical panel, which recommends this proposal be funded.

The objective of this project is to prepare a comprehensive synthesis to guide MDT in deciding on the best ways to promote and educate stakeholders and the public on roundabouts in Montana. To meet this objective, three primary tasks will be performed: a literature review of existing education/information campaigns for roundabouts, a survey/interview of states regarding their experiences with educating stakeholders and the public on roundabouts, and a review of other state/agency education/information campaigns that have been successful (but are not necessarily transportation-specific). This project will also include a review of previous public comments regarding roundabouts. The result of this work will be a synthesis document that will aid MDT in deciding the best approaches to use in Montana to promote and educate stakeholders and the public on roundabouts.

Dwane commented the public doesn't necessarily knowhow to use roundabouts and this information should be included in outreach.

Jon asked if the synthesis would cover traffic calming devices that may look similar to roundabouts, but are not actually roundabouts, such as the traffic calming structure on Butte Avenue in Helena. Ivan said they would include this type of information on the final products for the public.

Debbie made a motion to approve \$18,785.63 for this project. Jon seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

##### b. **SHRP 2 Implementation Funding** – To be distributed

Dwane said MAP-21 directs the states to fund SHRP 2 implementation activities with SPR dollars in a manner approved by a 75% approval vote of AASHTO. The AASHTO BOD approved this funding at 4% of total SPR funds for FFY 2013 and 2014, which equates to about \$314,000 for Montana in FFY 2013. FHWA issued a request for transfer of about half of these funds, or about \$153,000, by 2/15/2013. He said that he and Lynn are discussing more specifics about what part of SPR funds should be used to fund this effort and notified the RRC they may see an e-mail ballot on this issue if there is not a January RRC meeting.

#### 5. **Implementation/Technology Transfer**

##### a. **Steel Pipe Pile/Concrete Pile Cap Bridge Support Systems : Confirmation of Connection Performance – Phase III**

Kent indicated this is the third phase for this project, with the original project starting about 2000. We use intermediate bents with exposed piles and a concrete cap; the performance of

which is unknown for seismic conditions. Other seismic states do not use this type of connection. The Phase II project yielded good design at the end of the project, which was implemented, and is predictable and designable. The purpose of this project was to validate the performance of this design. Confirmation testing resulted in a modified detail to result in controlled failure.

Dwane asked if we have older connections and, if so, are there concerns for failure during a seismic event. Kent stated we have quite a few with the older design, but there is not a safety concern. The connections will survive aseismic event, but the structures will need more difficult repairs or replacement.

Dwane also asked if we could document the improved economics of using this new connection. Jerry stated the new design is elegant and has economic advantages, and they could document the benefits. Sue indicated she will work with MSU to document the benefits. Jerry also stated a number of states are interested in our research results, extending the benefits of this research beyond Montana. It is a high profile project.

b. Fall 2012 Research Newsletter

Sue announced that since the librarian position was filled, Research has begun publishing quarterly newsletters again.

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

a. LTAP updates and highlights: attached

Sue announced Steve Jenkins/LTAP, MSU-WTI was not able to present an update on LTAP in-person, but sent an update in lieu of his attendance.

b. Jerry Stephens announced, as a result of the MAP-21 legislation, an RFP will be issued soon for federally designated University Transportation Centers (UTC). There will be 35 centers: 5 – National, 10 – Regional, and 20 Tier 1. The Tier 1 centers funding is \$1.5 M with a 50% match (half that of the current match). The applicants will be asked to focus on one USDOT strategic area. Jerry said WTI is planning to submit a proposal for the Tier 1 level UTC.

c. Debbie announced Tim Conway has replaced Jim Greil.

d. Dwane asked if there was any language in MSP-21 regarding LTAP. Both Jerry and Sue indicated they didn't think so, but Sue will check.

If you have any additions to the agenda, please contact me at 444-7693 or ssillick@mt.gov. You will be notified of any last minute additions to the agenda by E-mail.

cc: Craig Abernathy/Research Section  
Audrey Allums/Grants Bureau  
Kent M. Barnes, P.E./Bridge Bureau

Katy Callon/Research Section  
Kevin Christensen/Highways and Engineering Division  
Kris Christensen/Research Section  
Tim Conway, P.E./Consultant Design Bureau  
Chris Dorrington/Data and Statistics Bureau  
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration-Bureau  
Mike Dyrdaahl/Highways and Engineering Division  
Paul R. Ferry, P.E./Highways Bureau  
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Bureau  
Michael P. Johnson/District Administrator-Great Falls  
Tom Martin, P.E./Environmental Services Bureau  
Doug McBroom/Multimodal Programs Bureau  
Shane Mintz/District Administrator-Glendive  
Ed Toavs/District Administrator-Missoula  
Roy Peterson, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau  
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau  
Jim Skinner/Planning and Policy Analysis Bureau  
Rob Stapley/Right of Way Bureau  
Stefan Streeter, P.E. /District Administrator-Billings  
Matt Strizich, P.E./Materials Bureau  
James A. Walther, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division  
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