



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: RRC Members
Steve Albert/WTI
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
Bob Seliskar/FHWA
Jon Swartz, Administrator/Maintenance Division
Mike Tooley/Director
Duane Williams, Administrator/Motor Carrier Services Division
Pat Wise/Deputy Director
Lynn Zanto, Administrator/Rail, Transit, and Planning Division

From: Susan C. Sillick, Manager
Research Programs

Date: October 31, 2016

Subject: May 24, 2016 RRC Meeting Notes

RRC Members Present: Mike Bousliman, Dwane Kailey, Sue Sillick, Jon Swartz, Duane Williams, Pat Wise, and Lynn Zanto

Others Present: Kris Christensen and Jeff Jackson

Sue stated she is working on recommendations for research project prioritization process and will be ready to present at the June or July RRC meeting.

1. **Budget Report:** Attached

No discussion

2. **[Research Projects - current listing](#)**

No discussion

3. **Reports:** Available on Research [website](#)

a. **LTAP-** progress report

- b. **Safety Impact of Differential Speed Limits on Rural 2-Lane Highways in Montana** (13-002)- Task 3 reports
- c. **Statewide Rockfall Hazard Rating Process Update-** Task 2 report
- d. **Special Event Traffic Synthesis** (13-010)- Final Report
- e. **Effects of Backcountry Aviation on Deer Stress Physiology-** Final Report

No discussion

4. **Proposals:**

Sue asked the RRC if they would like to see proposals for funding beginning 10/1/16 as they are submitted or after the RRC has approved a new project prioritization process. The RRC chose the latter. The next RRC meeting will be when these recommendations are discussed.

- a. LTAP Work Plan FFY 2016, SFY 2017

The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is a federally funded program to assist cities and counties in their transportation needs. It is funded by three sources: state gas tax (legislated at 100,000), FHWA (\$150,000, requires a 1:1 match), and SPR funds (\$57,166.34, for SFY 2017). Steve Jenkins reduced the amount of SPR funds he is requesting from \$82,822.54 in SFY 2016/FFY2015 to \$57,166.34 in SFY 2017/FFY 2016. LTAP is a SFY annual program. Federal funds are obligated in the same year they are provided, for the program that begins nine months after the beginning of that FFY. The state gas tax and FHWA funds are pass-through funds run through Research, with the state gas tax funds legislated to be paid 1/12th each month.

Sue noted, Steve Jenkins called her after hearing about the lack of state and federal research funds and offered to decrease the amount of SPR funds requested and to offer LTAP training free to MDT employees.

Both Dwane and Jon indicated they've heard positive comments from city and county staff regarding LTAP. Also, this proposal is similar to past proposals. In addition, Sue mentioned feedback is requested from training participants on that training and, also, to identify additional needs.

Dwane noted an incorrect reference to MCA; on page 24 of the work plan, (1(b.)) should be (2(a.)).

Jon made a motion to approve the LTAP Work Plan; Dwane seconded the motion. All RRC members present voted in favor of the motion, approving the work plan.

- b. **Rockfall Hazard Classification and Mitigation - Seeking approval for use of STP funds for a contract extension - Attached**

Jeff Jackson was in attendance to present this contract amendment request to the RRC on behalf of the technical panel for this project.

The current project includes an evaluation of MDT's current rockfall hazard rating system, but does not include any IT development. The scope of this amendment includes the following

- i. Prepare a field data collection platform for an android device for collecting polygon shape data of the extent of the rated rock slope,
- ii. Prepare two applications for geotechnical-related activities, one for tracking geotechnical events affecting the roadway and one for tracking geotechnical-related maintenance activities, and
- iii. Prepare a series of AGOL maps containing the rock slope geodatabase.

The cost for this extension is \$13,650. The request is being made of the RRC, the governing body for all research regardless of funding source, for the expenditure of STP funds.

Mike responded that IT staff needs to be involved. It was noted that Jack Dartman is on the panel. Also, since, we have more experience with Apple products, it is preferred we develop applications for Apple tablets instead of android. In addition, Mike said ISD needs to know what it means for MDT to support any new applications. Finally, Mike stated security might be a big issue.

Jon stated the second app is not needed as it is redundant with MMS.

Also, it was stated we need to make sure Planning is in the loop and doesn't have any issues. Jeff stated the consultant is already working with Brian Anderson in Planning.

Dwane stated the RRC will vote to approve/not approve the SOW; however, we will need FHWA approval to use STP funds.

Jon voted to approve the SOW, given that the second app is removed. Dwane seconded the motion. All RRC members present voted in favor of the SOW. Prior to amending the contract, the above issues need to be addressed and, if addressed successfully, FHWA needs to approve the use of STP funds.

5. **Implementation/Performance Measures/Technology Transfer:** None

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

No discussion

Copies: 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
Ryan Dahlke, P.E./Consultant Design Bureau
Chris Dorrington/Multimodal Programs Bureau
Lisa Durbin/Construction Administration Bureau
Mike Dyr Dahl/Engineering Operations Bureau
Ed Ereth/Data and Statistics Bureau
Dave Hand/District Administrator-Great Falls
Paul Jagoda, P.E./Construction Engineering Services Bureau
Tom Martin, P.E./Environmental Services Bureau
Shane Mintz/District Administrator-Glendive
Roy Peterson, P.E./Traffic & Safety Bureau
Suzy Price/Contract Plans Bureau
Dustin Rouse, P.E./Highways and Engineering Division
Ed Toavs/District Administrator-Missoula
Lesly Tribelhorn, P.E./Highways Bureau
Jim Skinner/Planning and Policy Analysis Bureau
Rob Stapley/Right of Way Bureau
Jerry Stephens, P.E./WTI MSU
Stefan Streeter, P.E./District Administrator-Billings
Matt Strizich, P.E./Materials Bureau
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