

## Chapter 4

### Interagency Cooperation

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter identifies the relationship and cooperation between MDT Maintenance and other agencies such as:

- City/County Governments
- Montana State Agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Federal Agencies
- Neighboring States/Provincial DOT's

#### 4.1 City/County Governments

City/County governments have highway maintenance goals and problems similar to the Department and since jurisdictions share boundaries in many areas, there are opportunities for cooperation and assistance. The Area Maintenance organizations and City/County governments cooperate by:

- Communicating with the agencies about common maintenance problems
- Sharing ideas and experiences
- Sharing information on maintenance materials and procedures
- Cooperative agreements on maintenance responsibilities, equipment and materials.

#### 4.2 State Agencies

The maintenance of highways often involves cooperation and communication with other state agencies. MDT recognizes and will comply with regulations administered by other State agencies. Agencies the Department cooperates with on a consistent basis are:

- **Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)**

MDT interacts with MFWP on an almost daily basis when dealing with activities such as dead animals, beaver dam removal, stream and wetland protection, information signs and access area enhancement.

- **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

MDT interacts with DEQ on air and water quality issues such as PM-10 non-attainment or high risk areas, erosion control issues (straw bales, silt fences etc....), storm water runoff permit issues, hazardous waste management, petroleum release and underground tank issues.

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- **Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)**

MDT interacts with DNRC on issues such as reclamation of aggregate source sites, land leases on state owned lands (school trust lands), water use permits (stream water used for flushing), water rights and irrigation issues.

- **Department of Administration (DofA)**

MDT interacts with DofA on issues such as architectural design and engineering of new facilities, payroll, classification, and retirement programs, purchasing and disposal procedures and risk management tort liability.

- **Department of Agriculture**

MDT interacts with Dept. of Agriculture on issues such as noxious weed control programs and licensing of weed control applicators.

- **Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)**

MDT interacts with MHP on a daily basis on issues such as accident reporting, reporting of damage to MDT infrastructure, reporting of hazardous highway conditions, work zone enforcement, abandoned vehicle removal, accident scene protection, assisting with road closures and joint use of facilities.

### 4.3 Tribal Governments

Typical or routine roadway maintenance operations do not require specific agreements between MDT and Tribal governments. MOU's between MDT and each Tribal Government identify general requirements for Construction and some Maintenance contracts. Project Specific Agreements (PSA's) will be negotiated to cover specifics of some individual projects. Contact your Area Maintenance Bureau Chief if you have any questions or concerns about working within reservation boundaries.

### 4.4 Federal Agencies

MDT provides maintenance to both state and federal highway system routes. MDT cooperates with many Federal agencies and complies with a variety of Federal regulations during the completion of maintenance activities on these routes. Agencies the Department cooperates with on a consistent basis are:

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for administering the federal-aid highway program. This includes monitoring the state's maintenance program to ensure that federal-aid routes are being adequately maintained. The Maintenance Areas cooperate by periodically accompanying FHWA representatives on maintenance reviews, answering or completing maintenance deficiencies identified during inspections, identification of major road closures or roadway damage on federal routes. There are a variety of maintenance activities that qualify for federal-aid reimbursement such as: preventative maintenance overlays, chip seals and crack seals, winter maintenance chemicals, pavement markings, striping activities, and safety projects (guardrail, signal light and signing upgrades).

- **National Park Service (NPS)**

MDT maintains several roadways inside the boundaries of national parks in Montana. Cooperative agreements identify what activities are completed and if specific restrictions are required.

- **US Forest Service (USFS) / Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

The USFS/BLM administers portions of the public land in Montana. Rights-of-way for roadways passing through USFS/BLM administered lands are allowed by easement. When planning roadside maintenance activities, take into consideration any USFS/BLM requirements for these easements. MDT owned facilities are allowed on USFS/BLM land through special use permits. MDT and USFS have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing Forest Service informational signing along MDT routes.

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**

The BIA maintains local public roadways on tribal lands. They have highway maintenance goals and problems similar to the Department. Since jurisdictions share boundaries in many areas, there are opportunities for cooperation.

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