

The minutes reflect the writer's impressions of the discussion and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the contract to determine MDT requirements.

**December 17, 2015
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

SPECIFICATIONS

1. 104.05 Roadway Maintenance
Contractors asked about the timeframe to begin maintenance. A Contractor asked if the requirement could be based on a certain reduced speed.
2. 107.11.8 Protection of Aquatic Resources
A Contractor asked about the definition of the word "over" in the proposed language.
3. 108.07/101.03 Contract Time
Alternate work schedules were discussed. A Contractor asked about charges for working Sundays.
4. 401.02.5 RAP
5. 555/711 Reinforcing Steel
A Contractor mentioned the limited number of suppliers for wire and wore mesh.
6. Section 558 Drilled Shafts

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. Contractor Staking

The Department mentioned that there would likely be more of this in the future. The Department has had internal feedback that some like it, some don't. They state that at times, the miscellaneous items do not get done, or do not get done timely. There have been projects with a lot of errors. One contractor mentioned that they would prefer to have everything be contractor staked. Issues with conflicts between contractors/subs were mentioned. A question was asked about how often the Department checks the Contractor's work. Scheduling can be easier with contractor staking. An example of sign staking was given, wondering about the process.

2. Utility Relocations

Can the utilities be required to come to the project meetings? The Department mentioned that utilities have a lot of rights by law. It is a balancing act for the Department. Is it possible to have a completion date for the utility relocations? The utility relocation special mentions that no monetary compensation is allowed for utility delays. A Contractor asked if that could change. It likely cannot, due to funding. There have been cases where the Department was able to get the utility relocations done in the winter but there were extra costs for winter excavation. A Contractor asked about making relocations a contract item or letting a separate contract.

3. Payment Reporting

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There is a new web based application for reporting subcontractor payments. It will be required with the February lettings. The Department will ask the Office of Civil Rights about a demo at the next MCA meeting. Link: <https://app.mdt.mt.gov/spr//>

4. iPhone Stockpile Measurements

This has been used quite a bit in Texas and Utah. There will be a demo on January 11, 2016 in Helena. It was mentioned that there may be issues with snow and low light. Stockpiles too close together also cause a concern.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

1. Future Projects Schedule

The new 5-year highway bill was discussed. It is about a 5% increase over the previous year. It does not yet have an appropriations bill to get the money. However, it will likely be a fully funded bill. The freight program is applied by formula, not discretion. MDT is no longer in Section 164, which has to do with the amount of safety funds. A Contractor asked if the state had the funds to match the federal money. The Department stated that it is fiscally stable through the end of FY 2017. The Department stated that it will find a way to match federal funds. Some differences (e.g. safety funds are 100% federal) with the new bill were mentioned.

The next MCA-MDT Highway Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office in Helena.