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**April 13, 2016
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting Meetings**

SPECIFICATIONS

1. 204.03.3 Master Blasting and Safety Plan

A new form is posted on the Department's website. The form should help both the Contractor and the Department with the submittal and reviewing process of blasting operations.

2. 401.03.2 Hamburg

MDT stated that the proposal is to increase the current time limit on running the Hamburg from 7 days to 14 days. Reasons for this were primarily due to the geography of the State and staffing issues.

Contractors expressed their concerns with such a long turnaround time, stating there was high risk involved with having to start production, then shutting down for a period of time waiting for Hamburg results. There were discussions between the Department and contractors regarding the issue of QA versus QC.

Contractors asked if it would be beneficial for MDT to purchase an additional Hamburg device and how staffing is currently being handled. Timeframes for running the Hamburg from receiving the sample and obtaining results were discussed, and if there was any way the contractors could help with those issues.

Contractors asked if it would be acceptable if samples were given to independent consultants to run the Hamburg test. MDT stated that it could be talked about; as long as MDT held the contract with the consultant and that the sample was solely in the possession of MDT personnel. MDT stated that the federal requirements have definitive rules for which a QA sample can be taken, tested and accepted.

MCA commented that MDT is constantly tightening specs and reducing the amount of contract time, but yet continues to mandate stringent testing procedures which places contractors in difficult positions and adds risk that the contractor needs to build into their bidding. MCA questioned if the increased bid amounts are worth the costs to MDT. MDT stated that they have an obligation to the tax payers to place the best product on the road and requirements for testing and acceptance should not be waived.

Contractors asked if MDT could weigh the cost/benefit to look into purchasing an additional Hamburg and additional staffing due to the high risk involved with contractors.

3. 701.12 Digout and Sub-Ex Replacement Material

MDT proposed changes to the current spec to allow the use of Crushed Aggregate.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

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1. Bidding Software

MDT presented information on new bidding software called Project Bids™, a replacement to the current Expedite™ program. The plan is to require its use in the December 8 Letting. Contractors asked if this software will be used when bidding on Maintenance purchase order contracts. It will not. Contractors have had issues when bidding on maintenance projects due to the confusion and difficulties of the software. MDT Maintenance responded saying that the Maintenance purchasing software has not changed, and that if they needed some guidance and questions answered that they would have someone talk to them regarding those issues at the afternoon meeting.

2. Funding

a. Letting outlook

MDT stated that the future lettings looked good for the coming year.

b. Short and Long Term

MDT mentioned they will ask the Legislature to move the MHP out of their financial budget so as to improve the overall outlook of MDT's budget. In addition, MDT will no longer be building bike and ped paths, which are 100% State funded. MDT will start utilizing additional matching federal funds that have not been pursued before.

A group from MCA will try and push legislation for an increase in the gas tax.

c. Impact on Maintenance

Maintenance has looked at internal cost savings and has pushed out long term building projects.

d. Spec Changes impact on budget

MCA brought this issue to the table stating that with all of the budget cuts and cost savings MDT continues to tighten specifications and testing procedures which have a direct influence on how Contractors bid projects. MCA stated that with such money constraints, why is MDT still wanting to put all of the risk onto the contractors.

3. Summary of Traffic Control and Concrete Producers meetings.

From the Traffic Control meeting held on April 12th, a smaller subcommittee will be formed to help answer some of the ongoing issues contractors have had in the past.

The Concrete Producers meetings, which were held over the winter, addressed much of the issues which producers in the Eastern part of Montana had. MDT stated that the biggest concern from producers and suppliers was that they were being handed all of the deductions but receiving none of the incentives. MDT stressed that they will not intervene between the contracts which Prime Contractors have with their Subcontractors.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DBE Usage – Current: MDT did not have the current DBE usage on hand.

2. Disparity Study Update

The disparity study has been completed and the report has been given to MDT. MDT mentioned that from that report it was proposed that the DBE goal for the year be

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established at 6.14% race-neutral. MDT Civil Rights felt comfortable with the proposed goal. The approval process with FHWA still needs to occur. Contractors asked if project specific goals were going to be set. MDT stated that initially they would not set project specific goals and asked that the goals be met by the contractors themselves.

AD-HOC ITEMS