

MCA - MDT Highway Technical Meeting June 10, 2020 – via Video Conference

Participants:

MDT:

Oak Metcalfe
Joe Green
Chris Riley (FHWA)
Jim Davies
John MacMillan
Dwane Kailey
Shane Pegram
Doug McBroom
Jeff Jackson
Darin Reynolds
Matt Strizich
Paul Rieger
Chris Trautmann

Contractors:

Kerry Gray, Highway Specialties
Aaron Gray, Highway Specialties
Brad Meyer
Halvor Fuglevand – Knife River
Keith Johnston – Mountain West
Guy Slaybaugh, Century Companies
David Smith, MCA
Brian Thompson, BKBH

MDT NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update

- Dwane Kailey
 - The following is a list of MDT supported legislation . . . this does not currently have the support of the governor (or future governor).
 - lighting requirements for snowplows and trucks. 40 snowplows hit per year . . . we want blue lights.
 - Allow MCS to enforce tire chains regulations. We want to increase the fine to encourage trucks to actually use chains on mountain passes.
 - Update the public employee grievance process.
 - Expand definition for when trucks can bypass scales (construction would not have to stop when travelling to a project in the vicinity)

- Amend 61-10-154
- Allow term permits beyond GVW limit
- Load transport length up to 80 feet
- Amend log truck lengths. Measure from front log
- Allow MDT to use online auctions for real property sales. (MDT currently limited to in person auctions)
- Courtesy cars at airports.
- Clarify definition of purposeful and knowing use of un-taxed fuel.
- Change packages (budget adjustments)
 - Increase in budget \$1M – software licensing.
 - Asking for 10 more FTE for bridge inspection and construction reviewers.
 - Asking for 2 FTE for partnering program
 - Asking for 3 FTE for drone program
- Requested that MCA please consult with MDT first before MCA brings legislation. We should work on things together before we bring the legislators in.

Consultant Managers

- Dwane Kailey: We are aware the consultant managers are not working the best – many issues and incidents have been brought to our attention. We are trying to work on this.

Letting Dates 2021

- Darin Reynolds. This will be on August 2021 Transportation Commission agenda. Need comment on this back by mid-July.

MCA New Business

Interim Striping

- Kerry Gray: 620.03.6 – interim pavement marking. There is currently inconsistency in the application of this spec in the field by MDT personnel on projects. In 2006, specs required interim striping after 10 days. . . . in 2014, specs required interim striping before opening to top lift. If the intent is to have the interim striping completed every night, that is expensive and the requirement needs to be clear in the MDT specs and to the MDT personnel on the ground. I have raised this issue with Kevin Christiansen . . . Christiansen stated he agreed the interim striping did not need to be completed each night and said the issue should be fixed by internal MDT communication. I don't believe it is MDT intent to require striping every night . . . but some managers are enforcing every night. It is not uniformly enforced across the state.
- Brad Meyer: this is happening on a weekly basis.
- Dwane Kailey: we have a meeting tomorrow at DCE to get clarification. I think you are correct. We don't want this done every night. We will get the word out to the people on the ground.

Speed Zones

- David Smith: Speed in Construction zones. Safety has to be first. We are having trouble keeping trucks and others under a reasonable speed. Does MDT have any input now?

- Dwane Kailey: This has been an issue for years. This is hot button. I would recommend not going to the legislature – it could go a direction you do not want to do. Legislators hate construction zone speed limits. Right now, Montana construction zones have significant speed reductions. Other states do not have comparably significant speed reductions in work zones and we should work to protection our significantly reduced speed reductions. We should try to work through traffic control. Also, we can hire highway patrolman to come and sit on a job. Talk with the EPM on this issue.
- Hal Fuglevand – Could we get something in a contract about highway patrol and speed zone enforcement?
- Dwane Kailey – We should set up a meeting with Highway Patrol.

Crossovers

- Guy Slaybaugh – I want to bring this up again. We have previously discussed increased use of crossovers and leaving some crossovers in place. Crossovers offer much better safety for everyone: contractors, MDT, and the traveling public. It also allows the public to travel a little faster through a construction zone.
- Dwane Kailey – We have a memo on crossover use. We are working internally on encouraging increased use of crossovers.

MDT Old Business

Buy America

- Oak Metcalf: we have a website for all the buy America matters now. It's a start for now . . . information will be added. <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/buy-america.shtml>