

DCE Agenda March 2006

March 1, 2006 Joint Directors of Operation/DME/DCE meeting 1 pm – 3 pm:

1. SCO Business Tier 2 Plan update – repeated with Directors of Operations
 - Brian reviewed the status of the Tier 2 business plan.
 - Ken Cox updated status of Construction Quality Index – doing this now as a research project (Ayres and Associates Mike Hammons and Ed Minchin). Provided researchers the information developed by the Materials Engineers. Researchers are currently looking worldwide for developed CQI's already in place.
 - David Sadler provided update of Preserve Environment task. Team has revised Section 104 of the specs to require the Contractor to hire a competent professional to develop its site specific erosion and sediment control plan to match the contractor's approach to building the project. This spec will be rolled out to coincide with the work that Rick Renna's team that is developing jointly with DEP and the WMD's a Florida Manual of Sediment and Erosion Control Best Practices.
 - Brian discussed Improve Quality Measures – for asphalt Brian and I will discuss with Mayur about which are the appropriate numbers to use in evaluation.

Post DCE meeting update from the SMO: From these definitions, the Full/Spec and Reduce/Spec meet the criteria of the Business Plan item and the level of success is at 98.4% of the Asphalt material was accepted per Specification.

- Discussed Construction Performance measures related to final estimates processing and CPPR entries.
 - Construction project manager staffing guidelines – need to look at number of projects assigned to FDOT Project Managers and numbers for CEI personnel assignments (Lou Reis gave a brief presentation on this at last months DCCM meeting).
 - Minimize impacts to adjacent properties – DCE's want to rely on the project specific surveys as measure instead of the statewide survey results since these would be specific to FDOT projects and not pick up city or county work as is possible with statewide survey.
 - OSHA Awareness training modules update. There will be a demonstration of the OSHA Awareness training modules tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 pm here. This will be Red Vector presenting to the DCTA's. What is being provided is an OSHA Awareness Training course consisting of 16 modules that can be taken as all CBT, as all instructor lead training, or in combination as the District sees fit. Red Vector will provide as a deliverable instructor and student manuals in PDF format and Powerpoint presentation for each of the modules.
 - Avoidable premium costs and time figures were discussed.
 - Witness/Hold jobs discussed. Turnpike has done a few early specification W/H projects. Currently D5 is piloting a W/H small bridge replacement project.
 - DCE's asked for data on how the CEI percentages were determined. Brian will get this information from Jim Johnson.
2. D5 Presentation on value modifications to asphalt VT program

- Piloting revised use of VT's on Projects – John Tyler presentation of the D5 asphalt VT value modifications. Included with the posting of these minutes is a copy of the presentation presented by John. The results from D5 are favorable and D5 has been given the go ahead to continue with this process. D5 was asked to outline in narrative the steps that make the process work for them so that information can be shared amongst the other districts.
 - Warm asphalt FC-5 – Christopher NeSmith gave a presentation on the Turnpike's FC-5 with warm asphalt project on Seminole Expressway. Zeolite material additive that allows the mix to be placed at lower temperatures. Might enable paving FC5 in cooler temperatures. Included with the posting of these minutes is a copy of the presentation presented by Chris.
3. FDOT facilities and Sunshine One-call
 - Some Districts having problems with contractors cutting FDOT fiber optic lines (possibly other FDOT utility facilities) because FDOT not on Sunshine One-call
 - Districts reporting that they are divided on having a problem with these being cut. D4, 5, 6, 7 reported they are having some problems
 - Should we be part of Sunshine One-call? This question was posed by Ananth.
 4. Construction Quality Index – update from Materials
 - FDOT turned over development of CQI to consultant as research project. See comments from 1.
 5. Turnpike update on Materials Model
 - Ken Morgan presented Materials model update on Western Beltway SR 429. Included with the posting of these minutes is a copy of the presentation presented by Ken.

The Directors of Operations and the Chief Engineer joined the meeting at about 3pm and we briefly reviewed the Tier 2 plan. Afterward, Ananth discussed:

- materials summit that was held last month. Also, FDOT is going to review night work requirements on projects. It appears that there are some cases where night work, or at least the work windows allowed, is more restrictive than necessary – need to consider directional traffic in determining the lane closure restrictions and night work restrictions.
 - CQC-lite is also being looked at as part of the ways to reduce costs – looking to see what is the absolute minimum information needed by the Department and eliminate the excess. Lower traffic levels and lower classes of concrete will be looking to relax materials standards.
 - Look at borrow pits provided by the FDOT. Looking a purchasing a mine in Miami. Look for strategic locations in D1, 2, 3 for permitting asphalt plants to allow for more viable bidders.
 - Consider partnering with northern states to use their employees during their winter shutdowns.
6. Materials Transfer Devices
 - DBE's want to use on all jobs
 - FHWA wants to use

- SCO considers to be a means and method issue and is opposed to making this a specification requirement
 - We can pilot on select projects but should focus on performance spec. Should be looking at setting incentives for performance rather than specifying means and methods.
 - Also, discussed lowering placement temperature to 55 degrees if used MTD.
7. Friction Course Numbers
 - D5 low friction numbers on new pavement
 - SMO tracking of friction numbers – discussed performance of Limestone vs. Granite in FC. Both perform comparably but granite performs better long term.
 - Discussed blended mixes of limestone/granite. Also, look at using screenings in the mix at about 15-20%. D5 may pilot this requirement on a special provision.
 8. Focus Group Results
 - Discussed results of the 6 focus groups studied around the state. Discussed the options doing an add-on CPPR score starting at 70 and going up based on performance. Also, discussed eliminating DWL and DL and just grading the contractor monthly with meeting to discuss the grade. Major discussion on CPPR system and ideas of ways to improve.
 9. Materials Issues – supplies, hurricanes,
 - Did not discuss this item

DCE meeting 3:15pm to 5:30 pm

1. Revised QC/QA process – process review changes, attitudes
 - Discussed proposed changes to QC/QA to utilize Specialty Engineers to conduct – provide faster turnaround to districts on results and faster implementation of changes statewide if necessary
 - District personnel would not be required to conduct these, their option
 - SCO could solicit technical expert from a district to participate in statewide review (expenses paid by SCO)
 - Revise CPAM chapter 5.9 Quality Assessment Plan
 - Will allow districts to have some level of review as they choose.
 - Will be working on these process reviews not being a “gotcha” but more of a teaching opportunity. SCO Specialty Engineers will be required to help train and coach district personnel on the correct process when they discover deficient areas. District representatives will be charged with taking the findings back to their district personnel to assist in spreading the process improvements.
2. Contract Modifications presentation (Kim Smith)
 - Discussed claims avoidance and documentation. Kim provided a handout (copy included as part of these minutes). Will be going out to the districts with Clay and IG’s office for review of supplemental agreements.
3. SCO and District philosophy of adjustment to bonus date due to contract modifications

- SCO considers that bonus dates should be adjusted with time back to the Department if contract modification results in reduced time on the job. For example, an MOT change that results in a savings of time by the contractor on a bonus job should result in the bonus date shifting correspondingly
 - Consensus of the Districts is that should not have to shift the contract time because FDOT/public would recognize the benefit of earlier completion.
 - SCO wants the districts to consider time credit as part of negotiation.
4. Encumbrance Overrun Policy
- Attachments outlining 2.5% overruns allowance and draft DCE memo. Discussed some of the problems districts having with Comptroller's office processing estimates. Districts being told they can not encumber funds until the jobs reach 75% - this affects jobs when plans errors occur early in the job. Also, districts would like Jim Johnson to enable a report of the function code 240 used on a job.
 - SCO will contact Comptroller's Office about allowing encumbrance of additional funds for discovered plans errors prior to 75% completion of the project.
- Post DCE meeting update from Robin: If a district runs into this situation, they can request approval from Robin to encumber overrun funds prior to hitting 75% with proper justification. An email to Robin will suffice that includes the request including contract number and amount of overrun funds and justification.
5. Approval of Contract Changes – delegation question
- This is a result of an OIG audit. Ensure that when the DCE makes a delegation of its authority to execute a Supplemental Agreement/Unilateral that this is limited to assistant DCE and is documented in the file and is a part of the SA package.
6. Latent Defects – mast arm coatings
- Southeast Fabricators, Union Metals, Value Structures were discussed as manufacturers whose poles have had some problems with galvanizing and subsequent coatings failure.
 - Discussed findings of galvanizing problems and replacements being done around the state. Also, noted that investigations by FDOT's expert in company of contractor's expert have found corrosion on the inside of some poles which resulted in the Department requiring removal and replacement of the deficient.
7. Foundations for High Mast Lighting
- Continue to find from time to time high mast lighting foundation constructed not in accordance with Design Standards. Particularly with regard to top of concrete foundation to bottom of nut dimension. Standard index provide a maximum dimension of 1 bolt diameter between the top of the concrete foundation and the bottom of the bottom nut.

March 2, 2006 DCE meeting 7:30 am to 12 pm:

1. OIG Contract Modification Study – discussed briefly the report of findings. Given the dates of the Contract Modifications reviewed by the OIG’s office, it appears that process and procedure changes have been done to correct these findings.
2. LS CEI Contracts – OIG review. Discussed the findings by the OIG’s office and conditions that will enable FDOT to use LS CEI. FHWA expects FDOT to use Kim Smith in negotiations and develop contracts that will allow for renegotiations if scope of the work changes on the project. Discussed with the Districts that they do not want Kim to be at the negotiation table with the consultant. Are amenable to his involvement prior to negotiation and after negotiations before execution of the contract.
3. Consultant Eligibility Guidelines – provided handout of consultant eligibility guidelines. Discussed language and that will be sent to FICE next week. Discussed means for determining potential conflict situations. D3 having professional services provide this information. Recommend that Ananth discuss this with the District Secretaries about his intent for this guideline as hearing from some that the Secretaries are taking a very hard line with any consultant involvement. Discussed DB restrictions and that are developing guidelines for GEC contracts.
4. Permits – Environmental and otherwise, mandatory spec change
 - Dewatering permits, when needed are a contractor responsibility
 - Mandatory spec change language in section 7 was discussed and that it is posted on the specs website.
 - Discussed D1 job and pulling of permits for dewatering.
5. Contracts with multiple FIN – tracking quantities – feedback from districts
 - Were told initially that could be done at the end of the job to prorate the quantities. Now being told to do it each month – hearing from Chason that this has to be done monthly. This has become a cumbersome doing it monthly. Reason being told to do this is for composite pay factors. FHWA ok with doing this at the end of the job. Follow up with Chason.
6. Pilot Projects Update – feedback from districts
 - Performance Turf – D1 has two projects with this, will start grassing next week. D5 has done one and gotten desired results.
 - Access Accommodation – D6 has completed 2 surveys, contractor has earned about \$4k. D5 has done one and will submit results. D4 has completed one job that resulted in contractor earning small amount. Found that the questions were misunderstood.
 - Sand/Seal Coat – not working over thermoplastic. Works well over paint. Watch for friction numbers
 - Witness/Hold Point Project – D5 has project that is approximately 38% complete. Have 4 other projects listed for trial on this in different districts.
 - Embedded Data Collector – discussed that D2 had project where had EDC on test piles and yielded very good results. SCO is looking for pilots projects with small (less than 50) piles to include EDC on every pile and eliminate test pile program. D4 has one project that will be piloted, D2 has selected a project as well. Looking also for a job in D1.
 - Asphalt Resistant Traffic Striping – D1 and D5 have jobs let with this but not a point when ready to use.

- Discussed use of thermo by the districts – D1 went back to thermo in all contracts starting in October 2005, using a 30 day cure period. D7 gone back to thermo but with 14 days from finish FC.
7. Procurement times for projects – seeing long procurement times
 - Seeing some districts letting jobs with very long procurement times – some a year or greater. Discussed with districts what they are doing. Most are using 90-180 days for procurement periods on some jobs. D6 allowing long time periods prior to starting work to allow completion of all utility relocation work.
 8. Landscape Specification 580 Requirements
 - Hearing from district personnel that project personnel not requiring contractors to meet spec requirement of LA and quarterly inspections, etc. Reminded DCE's of requirement to have LA perform inspections on the projects as part of 1 year establishment period
 9. DRB related matters – rulings, days being requested by DRB
 - Discuss number of days being requested by DRB members. Some DRB's asking for additional days for review. Ok to allow reasonable number of additional days if approved in advance.
 10. CPAM
 - Reviewed list of changes from last year, will be voting by DCE's on changes this year.
 11. CPPR – Focus Group “unwritten rule”
 - Added to emphasize that there is no unwritten rule of “no 100's to Tallahassee.” It has been and continues to be about the process. If the district folks are following the process, the score will take care of itself.
 12. Final Estimates – holding estimates. Don't recall why this was added to agenda. Will review for next DCE meeting.
 13. Asphalt Base by the ton
 - update on the status of trying to make this work within existing pay items structures. All field personnel want it. Will work with Final Estimates Office to develop means for doing this.
 - Would like to see +/- tolerance for structural asphalt (Lorie Wilson issue)