

DISTRICT THREE DESIGN NEWSLETTER



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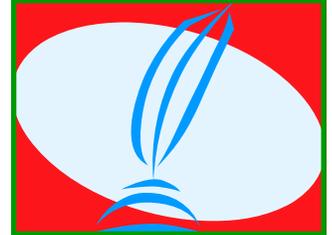
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Volume 13, Issue 4

October—December, 2008

From the Editor's Desk

Scott Golden, P.E., District Design Engineer



As a designer, ask yourself this question, "What is my goal in providing the FDOT with a 'quality' design?" If you do not know the answer to that question or you are unsure, the answer is contained in our Mission, Vision and Values.

OUR MISSION: The department will provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods enhances economic prosperity and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.

OUR VISION: Serving the people of Florida by delivering a transportation system that is fatality and congestion free.

OUR VALUES:

Integrity: "We always do what is right."

We are committed to honesty, loyalty and a high standard of ethical conduct.

Respect: "We value diversity of talent and ideas."

We respect and consider all sides and facts of an issue, but when the decision is made we support its implementation and communication.

Commitment: "We do what we say we are going to do."

We achieve performance excellence through hard work, innovation, creativity and prudent risk taking. We believe commitments made are commitments to be kept.

One FDOT: "We are one agency, one team."

Together we are better.

Trust: "We are open and fair."

It is important for all FDOT employees and our partners (citizens, local, state and federal government agencies and officials, private partners, consultants, contractors, vendors, etc.) to know and understand our Mission, Vision and Values. These goals are even more important for those doing design work for FDOT. Take a moment and consider the value of "Trust."

In a recent email, Florida Department of Transportation Secretary, Stephanie Kopelousos wrote, "We build and maintain trust by being open and fair with customers, partners, stakeholders, and each other." A big part of being open and fair is communication. When a citizen or a public official has a concern on one of your projects, it is imperative to communicate that concern to the FDOT project manager and be prepared to fully explain the Department's position on the matter. Furthermore, having an attitude that exhibits a willingness to listen and a sincere interest in helping the individual will also foster a greater confidence from the public. Keep in mind that specific responses (correspondence) to elected officials (on design projects) are to be handled by this office.

Thank you to all who have contributed to a successful 2008. I hope that you have a happy and prosperous 2009.... Scott



District III Quarterly Design Newsletter

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New Thoughts For a New Year

Bobby Ellis, P.E., District Consultant Project Management Engineer

The holidays are upon us, and I have just finished my first year as District Consultant Project Management Engineer. I have really enjoyed this last year, and I have learned a lot and have met several interesting people. As usual, this is the time of year where I look back on what all has transpired, and I try to look for ways to improve for the upcoming year. One area where I see we (myself included) can improve is trying to find ways to say “yes” to the private stakeholders of our projects. It is so easy to say no, and for some folks, it is almost instinctive. Why?? We should be leaders in helping our communities and business owners achieve their goals (economic, aesthetic, or otherwise). We should seek their input as early as possible in the design phase. In today’s economy, the Department needs to be an ally not an obstacle.

I understand that the Department doesn’t have the funds to do everything. I understand that these requests often come in late and require getting new estimates, alternative designs, and finding alternative funding sources. But, I feel that we owe it to the citizens to do these things if at all possible. Why do we have to wait on the District Secretary to ask us to look into these requests? I would rather tell the District Secretary that we have looked into these things and have or are working on a fact sheet for your approval or disapproval. Even if we have to say no, showing the public that we have looked into their request and made an honest effort goes a long way toward positive public perception of the Department. How hard you work on your projects and your willingness to look into these alternatives is a direct reflection on your firm and the Department.

Switching gears, as of right now, the work program is looking good. If everything stays the way it is, it appears that there will be more projects than there were last year. Now, I have just shared one improvement tip for next year, but I feel that whether you won a project last year or not, you may need to self evaluate and come up with your own improvement strategy. Are you going to take the time and look at last year’s proposals and try to improve your game? Are you going to work harder on the projects you already have to ensure future opportunities? Or, are you going to just stay the present course? I encourage each of you to find ways to improve yourself, your family life, and your firm. We will all benefit from each others’ improvement, and who knows, if everyone were to do this, maybe the current state of affairs won’t be as bad as some in the media project it to be.

Design Spotlight—Heath Henderson

Scott Golden, P.E., District Design Engineer

Heath Henderson is a registered professional engineer and a native of Chipley, FL. He graduated from Florida State University in December 1999 with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering. His engineering career began in January, 2000 as a consultant performing CE&I services where he spent eight years before joining FDOT in April 2008 as a Design Project Manager. He has been married to his wife Sarah for 5 years and has one daughter, Izabel, who is 3. Heath enjoys hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. We certainly are glad to have Heath as part of our DOT Project Management team.



Top Ten Quality Control Comments Oct.- Dec. 2008

1. Update Plans to include a sign detail for the Project Information Sign. Cost to be included in the Maintenance of Traffic, Lump Sum, Pay Item 0102-1. (Reference Specification 102-11.5 and Interim Index Sheet 13 of 13.)
2. The District Construction Office has requested the following note be reflected in all resurfacing plans: “Milling Operation is restricted to only that area which can be milled and covered with structural course/friction course within the same work operation.”
3. Add the necessary Traffic Control Pay Items as indicated in the Plans and/or the referenced Design Standard(s).
4. Will Audible and Vibratory Pavement Markings be necessary for project? Review and revise accordingly
5. Ensure that the Asphalt quantities are correct.
6. Subsoil Excavation pay item is being left out of the plans.
7. Silt fence is being used in locations that do not need it.
8. Include the name of project manager on key sheet.
9. Coordinate with Project Manager to have the FM System updated for project.
10. Give detail as how to treat gutter in urban areas of mill and resurface.

Supplemental Agreement Report – September 2008-December 2008

Scott Golden, P.E., District Design Engineer

Following is a sample of Supplemental Agreements for the fourth quarter of 2008 (September through December). The three (3) categories of Supplemental Agreements that are included in this summary are 101, 503, and 107. This summary is included in the Quarterly Design Newsletter as a tool to inform designers of errors and omissions that can lead to Supplemental Agreements and unnecessary cost to the public. Below are brief descriptions of those errors or omissions and the department's responses.

Description Code: 101 Necessary pay item(s) not included in contract.

Reason: Improvements under this contract include milling and resurfacing, widening /shoulder reconstruction, ADA improvements, and signal upgrades.

Amend contract to incorporate pay item number 705-10-12 object marker (type II) (EA). This change is required to compensate the contractor for installation of object markers for identification of drainage structure locations as permanent warning devices for motorist and maintenance crews.

Granted Time: 0 days

Increase: \$1016.40

Response: Avoidable (design error) / no cost recovery action is recommended.

Description Code: 503 Change resulting from engineering decision.

Reason: Work under this contract consist of milling, resurfacing, guardrail replacement, and drainage improvements.

A field review of project was conducted and revealed severe ditch erosion. The FDOT District Drainage Engineer made a recommendation to protect this area and prevent further erosion buy installing Gabion Mats.

Granted Time: 20 days

Increase: \$200,000.00

Response: Unavoidable (not the result of design error).

Description Code: 107 MOT Modification of Maintenance of Traffic for pedestrians, boats, cars bikes, etc.

Reason: Work under this contract consists of reconstruction of railroad crossing.

Add needed pay items for pavement marking that are required for safety of the traveling public on revised detour. Construction of the roadway to the plan profile raised the roadway higher than the existing curb and gutter for a distance plus or minus one hundred feet either side of the R/R crossing. It was necessary to remove and replace the curb and gutter and sidewalk to comply with specifications, standards, and safety requirements.

Granted Time: 0 days

Increase: \$42,052.20

Response: Unavoidable (not the result of design error)

Sympathy sees and says, "I'm sorry." Compassion sees and says, "I'll help."



Mark Your Calendars!!!!

District 3 Design Conference

April 16 & 17, 2009

Majestic Beach Resort & Conference Center

Panama City Beach, Florida

Reservations Department Toll Free at

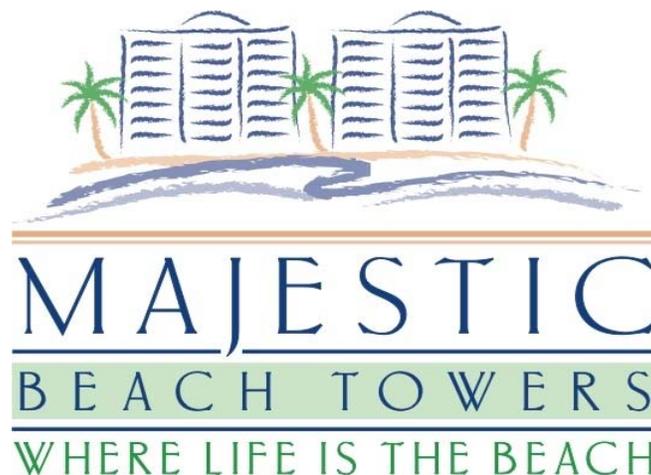
1-866-494-3364

Cutoff Date is March 1, 2009

Please register with **FDOT @**

D3.DesignConference@dot.state.fl.us

If you have any topics you would like on the agenda please email teresa.barfield@dot.state.fl.us by February 1.



If you attended the D3 Design Conference in 2007 and you are completing your PDH's for your PE license, when you select the agency choose, State Agency Impacting Engineering, for the provider.