Roadway Design Staff Meeting

Roadway Design Unit Conference Room
October 8, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Pipe Installation Standards and Specifications

Drainage Pipe Installation Standard Drawings have been modified and condensed to three sheets in lieu of four.
A summary of the major changes is as follows:

- The drawings no longer reference the Method A and Method B installation types.
- Method B is replaced by a special RCP design when fill heights are greater than 40 feet. Special provisions are to be used in this case.
- There are separate details for flexible and rigid pipe. Standard 300D01 sheet 1 of 3 is for flexible pipe and 300D01 sheet 2 of 3 is for the rigid pipe.
- Fill height tables have been updated and are included in 300D01 sheet 3 of 3.
- Arch pipe and structural plate pipe are no longer shown in the pipe Standard Drawings. Drawings for these applications will be provided on project specific basis.

The revised drainage summary sheets and pay items for **" Drainage Pipes should be implemented with all projects, beginning with the January 19, 2010 Letting.

Aggregate Subgrade and Select Granular Material Pay Items

Two new special provisions where developed by the Contract Standard and Development and Geotechnical Engineering Units.

- The new "Aggregate Subgrade" provision will replace the current "Shallow Undercut" provision. The Class IV Subgrade Stabilization and Fabric for Soil Stabilization pay items will remain the same for the new provision. However, the new "Aggregate Subgrade" provision includes a new Shallow Undercut (6-24 inches) pay item to replace the Undercut Excavation pay item used in the current "Shallow Undercut" provision. Projects with geotechnical recommendations recommending shallow undercut will need to be revised. The Undercut Excavation quantity for shallow undercut should be deducted from the total Undercut Excavation quantity and included and in the estimate as Shallow Undercut.
- Then New "Select Granular Material" provision will replace Section 265 of the standard specifications. The Select Granular Material pay item for the provision has not changed form Section 265. However, to aid in contract administration during construction, select granular material will be paid for (In cubic yards) differently when it comes from the same source as the borrow excavation. As a result, comprehensive (Lump Sum) grading projects with select granular material should be handled differently if the geotechnical recommendations recommend the use of select granular material and it is not a contingency item. For this situation, undercut and borrow quantities should be included as individual items under Section 225 and 230 of the Standard Specifications.

Subgrade Inventory Plans

Geotechnical Engineering Unit has been producing a semi-annual report that shows availability of roadway subsurface plans for letting. Due to inconsistencies within the report, the Geotechnical Unit has discontinued its use. Roadway Design Engineers should assume that all Central Let projects will have subsurface plans. If you have any questions about the availability of subsurface plans, please contact Dennis Li or Gordon Box of the Geotechnical Unit Production Support Group.

- Interstate Access Changes Requiring FHWA Review and Action

The FHWA Administration has approved an update policy on adding or modifying access to the interstate system. The policy was published in the Federal Register on August 27, 2009 (74 FR 43743). The revisions made by the publication of this policy statement reflect the direction provided in SAFETEA-LU. [Earlier Versions: Additional Interchanges to the Interstate System, October 22, 1990, 55 FR 42670 and Access to the Interstate System, February 11, 1998, 63 FR 7045].

Access changes requiring FHWA review and action are as follows:

1. New freeway-to freeway interchanges
2. New Service interchanges
3. Modification of freeway to freeway interchanges configuration
4. New partial interchanges or new ramps to/from frontage roads
5. Completion of basic movements at partial interchanges
6. Locked gate access
7. Abandonment of ramps or interchanges
8. Access to special use lanes (HOV/HOT/TOT)
9. Relocation of a terminal or ramp
10. Interchange reconfiguration
11. Any modification in the total number of ramps
12. Any modification in the location of a gore point(s)
13. Any modification of acceleration/deceleration lane

- Housekeeping:
  We must keep our offices and cubes clean and free of empty drink cans, bottles and anything eatable that may attract insects. Coffee pots and the area around them should be kept clean.

- Open Discussion:
  - 5 Year Plan:
  - The Geotechnical Unit asked to be notified of plan revisions. Please continue to utilize the design revision form letter to document major plan changes and revisions.
  - Now that the draft *5 Year Work Program* is available, the Department is initiating a workload assessment of all business units. For the past few years, revenue shortfalls have forced the Department to operate with severe hiring restrictions. These restrictions have resulted in staffing levels that are not based on current or projected workloads. In addition, program requirements, processes, and tools

have changed significantly over the past 5-10 years. Our Human Resources office recently led a Program Evaluation which was a rapid, high-level assimilation of program and human resource utilization information. An overwhelming finding during that evaluation was a need for a more detailed staffing and workload assessment based on projected future workloads.

This is an enormous undertaking and will require time and effort to develop the information needed to effectively balance our resources. Our goal is to make data-driven decisions for realignment of positions and future hiring priorities. The study and workload assessment is being conducted by the Quality Enhancement Unit.

- The Roadway Design Unit lost 17 vacant positions during the budget management directive initiated this past summer. An updated Roadway Design Unit Organization Chart is attached.

Minutes Approved By: _____ Date: 12/11/09

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