



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

August 13, 2012

Notice To: Jay Bennett, Jonathan Bivens, Stuart Bourne, Ken Cates, Judith Corley-Lay, Ron Hancock, Berry Jenkins, BJ Lanier, Don Lee, David Moyar, Gerhard Pilcher, Ian Scott, Mason Sexton, Lamar Sylvester, Michael Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Brian Webb, and Dennis Wofford

From: R.A. Garris, PE

Subject: AGC/Roadway Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The subject committee met on July 25, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Pamlico Conference Room at the Century Center with the following in attendance:

Jay Bennett	Berry Jenkins	Natalie Roskam
Jonathan Bivens	Patrick Doran	Lamar Sylvester
Njoroge Wainaina	Dan Lenzen	Michael Taylor
Randy Garris	Ryan Nolan	Jeff Mullins
Vladimir Mitchev	Dave Moyar	Ed Spencer
David Harris	Sherell Williams	Kevin Thomas
Scott Hidden		

1. Project Letting Website Upgrades – Ryan Nolan and Patrick Doran

On August 17, 2012, central and Division project letting websites will switch over to connect.ncdot.gov. Some information under the “main” tab may be listed under different tabs, but the letting and award portion will still be clearly visible on the center of the new page. Division lettings will also be more accessible. A comprehensive list of all advertised projects is also being worked on (central let and division let listed together). Any previous links to the old letting page will be re-directed to the new website’s letting page for at least one year. There are plans to have a master list of forms and manuals, instead of customers and employees needing to search through several offices’ websites in order to find a document. There will be a much more functional search box for the NCDOT website. A troubleshooting/help button will be installed on the page to allow customers to submit any problems/bugs on the site after its initial launch.

2. Unconfined Compressive Strength for Lime and Cement Stabilized Subgrades – Michael Taylor

Mr. Taylor has been told between 40 and 60 psi is acceptable for unconfined compressive strength for lime. However, if less than 60 psi is observed in the field, the specification is unclear how to remedy the situation. Mr. Wainaina explained that the requirement is 60 psi and

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the contractor must provide enough lime to achieve 60 psi. However, Mr. Wainaina noted that over time, the lime stabilized subgrade could cure to the point where 60 psi is attained and that was why the specification was written without specific corrective actions.

3. Reinforced Side Slopes and Rock Plating – Michael Taylor

Mr. Taylor questioned why Reinforced Soil Slopes were paid for by square yards of slope instead of by material quantities. Mr. Hidden says that Geotech has been trying to come up with a way to compare total unit costs of differing methods of slope stabilization. He explained that the type of material the contractor uses is critical in determining the quantity of material the contractor will need to complete the job. Also, it is easier for the field surveyors to simply measure how the final square yards of Reinforced Soil Slopes. Mr. Taylor pointed out that contractors are having trouble identifying on plans where exactly these reinforced slopes need to be installed. Mr. Hidden proposed a solution in the form of summary tables to show where Reinforced Soil Slopes will be needed throughout the project. This solution will be implemented and revised if necessary.

Mr. Taylor reported that more detail is needed in plans on where Rock Plating is required. Mr. Taylor expressed concern about rock plating, because the stone material used in this process was paid for by the ton, but now is paid for by the square yard. Mr. Hidden reiterated the reasons for the change to allow consistent cost comparisons on various reinforcement options and ease of inspection. He commented that the new summary sheet will assist in identifying the rock plating locations.

4. Reinforced Bridge Approach Fills – Michael Taylor

Traditionally, flexible pipe has been used to redirect water from the bridge approach fills to an outlet pad at the bottom of the slope or to an outlet located within the rip rap. New plans are being drawn to use rigid white PVC pipe to create these water diversions, and Mr. Taylor commented that this pipe requires T-fittings and angled fittings to turn the flow of water down the slope instead of simply using flexible pipe; rigid pipe is also more expensive. Rigid pipe is a lump sum item, so all fittings are included in the lump sum price. Resident engineers often move outlets from the top of the slope in the original plan design, to an outlet pad at the bottom of the slope.

5. Surcharges, Waiting Periods and Embankment Monitoring – Scott Hidden

Mr. Hidden has modified the plans to standardize settlement gauges. Geotech summary tables were created for items like drainage, underdrains, rock plating, reinforced soil slopes, waiting periods, and surcharges.

6. SAF Form – Jonathan Bivens

SAF Form is being interpreted differently by different offices. HICAMS allows bid prices to have 3 significant digits, whereas the spreadsheet on SAF Form only allows 2. Another issue is that subcontractors are paid with a different unit price than DOT is paying the prime contractor, the contractor varied instructions to address these differences in unit pay. Also, only one “partial” and one “portion” are allowed by the form. Contractors sometimes have 2 or 3 tiers of subcontractors below them, and the form is basically not flexible enough to allow for these situations.

7. Erosion Control Certification Classes – Lamar Sylvester

A pilot program of online training was done a few weeks ago, and the online classes should roll out in the next month. An online version of the training for “Level 2” will be available, and a representative from N.C. State will be able to schedule proctored exams with a two week notice. A location will be set up to allow the representative to come out and proctor exams for trainees. A schedule of classes has been sent out by Mr. Jenkins, and they are currently available for sign ups. Finalized information will be sent to Mr. Jenkins, who will again send it out to everyone. An online version of the exam is being evaluated for possible future use.

8. Davis/Bacon Wage Rate Determinations – Berry Jenkins/Ron Hancock

The updated survey of wage rates has been submitted to the Department of Labor with a response requested by July 31, 2012. The proposal changes would expand the number of classifications. Under the new system, an electronic wage rate survey would be conducted every three years.

9. FHWA 1273 Form Update – R.A. Garris

Handouts discuss important changes to FHWA 1273.

10. Pipe Removal Project in Iredell County

In an Iredell County project, 14,000 feet of pipe is being removed and replaced. The 2012 edition of the *Standard Specifications* does not pay for pipe removal when a pipe is to be replaced in the same trench or location. Mr. Garris is aware of the issue and will address this issue with plan checkers to identify projects where pipe replacement is present.

11. Extra Depth of Pipe Inserts

Specs provide an equation for the calculation of extra depth. This equation also provides a calculation for if the pipe is installed shallower than the plans call. If more depth is required, contractors are paid more, but if less depth is required, the department is reimbursed. The contractors in the meeting said the equation is very rarely used, but the only time extra pay is requested is if the labor is extremely difficult. They also believe the Department should not be reimbursed if depth is shallower than in plans because most of the cost is tied up in the pipe bedding materials. The contractors mentioned the formula was derived before bedding was implemented in pipe laying. If the equation was updated and adjusted to factor in bedding cost, contractors don't mind using it.

12. Soil Stabilization Options

The committee discussed soil surface stabilization on small quick-turn-around projects where matting is typically used. Contractors requested additional matting on projects in order to speed project completion. Mr. Harris noted some recent quality issues with matting suppliers and suggested hydraulic seeding for areas like the mountains where matting may not be suitable.

The next Roadway Subcommittee meeting will be October 18, 2012 at 9:30 AM in the Riverwood Conference Room, Century Center B.

CC: Victor Barbour, PE
Andy Gay, PE