

ROAD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING 8/20/09

Attendees:

Marty McKee-Thrift Development Corp.

Chris Davis- Sanders Brothers

Casey Schwager- Sloan Const. Co.

Greg Ashmore- Ashmore Brothers

Sally Paul- Sanitary Plumbing, Inc.

Mike Crenshaw- King Asphalt, Inc.

Charles Eleazer- SCDOT

Jamie Kendall- SCDOT

Patti Gambill- SCDOT

Stephanie Jackson Amell- SCDOT

Elisa Willis- SCDOT

Curtis Sims, Jr. - SCDOT

The meeting was called to order by Marty McKee with introductions. Special welcome was made to Casey Schwager, who will be joining the subcommittee in September and to Elisa Willis who attended the meeting with Stephanie Jackson Amell as a trainee with SCDOT.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Seeding Spec.

Jamie stated new spec. will probably be implemented beginning with the January, 2010 letting. Revisions include the seeding schedule and simplifying the mulch table.

Charles stated a Supplemental Agreement can be issued on existing projects to have the new spec. made retroactive.

II. New Business

A. Improve Effectiveness/Efficiency of the Submittal Process

Marty stated that the Joint Committee “pushed” this topic down to the Road and Bridge Subcommittees for ideas on ways to improve on the submittal process. It was also noted that SCDOT/CAGC is forming a “task-force” to look at the “paperless” aspect of submittals and this would not be part of the Road Subcommittee’s task.

A list of possible items to consider had been developed during the Contractor’s portion of the meeting and these included: Hot/Cold Weather Concrete Pouring Plans, NCHRP-350 Compliance Letters, Traffic Signal Cutsheets, and Traffic Control Letters.

Charles stated some specifications could possibly be reworded so as to eliminate the need for so many redundant letters. However, some submittals are so project specific that they will continue to be required. He will look specially at the Hot/Cold Weather Concrete Pouring Plan, Traffic Signal Cutsheets, and NCHRP-350 letters.

Stephanie stated that District #3 is implementing a software program called “Sharepoint” that will allow most submittals to be processed paperless. The District should have this program in-place by the end of the year.

Marty also mentioned the possibility of using barcodes on Traffic Control Devices such as Changeable Message Boards, Attenuators, Arrow Boards, etc. to show their conformance and acceptance by SCDOT. This could be modeled after SCDOT’s sign inventory process.

B. CPM Scheduling Requirements for Small Projects

Marty stated this was another issue the Joint Committee asked the Road Subcommittee to discuss. At the Joint Committee meeting, Danny Shealy stated he would consider waiving the CPM Schedule if Contractors agreed to a “no excuses- drop dead” completion date on small projects. All of the Contractor representatives agreed this would not be a wise solution due to the many variables associated with most projects.

Charles again stated SCDOT's need for the CPM Schedule for both money flow and inspector requirements.

Discussions then began about how some projects' Notices to Proceed are being delayed by the approval of the CPM Schedules.

Patti stated the CPM Schedule must be "submitted" 15 days prior to the Pre-Construction Conference, but does not need to be "approved" before the conference. However, the CPM Schedule must be approved before work begins on the project.

Mike asked if the time between the submission of the schedule and the Pre-Construction must be 15 days, or may the conference be scheduled sooner ?

Patti stated that if the schedule is submitted, should not have to wait the entire 15 days if it will start the project quicker.

Charles then discussed some of the delinquency issues.

Patti stated that SCDOT beginning to review projects for possible delinquency status when a project reaches 15% behind schedule instead of 25% behind schedule.

Many contractors stated that it really amplifies the problems created by a "Preliminary Notice of Delinquency" that is a paperwork issue, when a copy is sent to the contractor's bonding company.

Chris stated many issues could be resolved if the RCE called the contractor before the PNOD is sent.

Charles stated he would review if the Preliminary NOD could be withheld from the bonding company.

Patti asked if Contractors would like a more in-depth class where a CPM Schedule would actually be developed? Marty stated he would have Contractors surveyed to see if interested.

C. Modified Cement Recycled Base

Marty stated this is the third issue passed down for discussion from the Joint Committee. It appears more specific details are needed to clarify several issues that are occurring on reclamation jobs. Examples of these issues are:

- What is to be done with excavated material?

- Is a pay item for "Excavation of Shoulders" needed?
- What about the issue of modification of cross slopes of the reclaimed road?
- There are traffic issues on some roads (near schools, etc.) that need addressing.
- What about the different curing methods previously discussed? Different Districts are requiring different methods.

Charles stated SCDOT has formed a Task Force to investigate these and other issues on reclaimed roads.

Marty asked if some contractor representatives could be placed on the Task Force? Charles agreed and the Road Subcommittee asked Greg Ashmore and Chris Davis to serve as Contractor representatives. The Task Force will issue a report to the Road Subcommittee for review and this report will be forwarded to the Joint Committee.

D. Mentoring Program

Curtis Sims from the DBE Office presented a synopsis on the program. SCDOT will identify projects that would be good target projects for this to be used on. It is a voluntary program and no "set-aside" projects will be issued. These projects will have a specific bid item for the mentoring program and it may resemble the current "Trainee" contract pay item with an amount preset. SCDOT may allow a current project to utilize a S.A. to add the mentoring program, if FHWA approves. An important aspect to note, the DBE a contractor uses for the mentoring program will only count one-half toward the DBE Goal on the project.

E. Late "Notice to Proceed" Issues

In addition to the items previously shown as discussed in CPM Schedule item, Marty asked if SCDOT could provide contractors with a "checklist" of items needed from the contractor to get a project's NTP issued? Marty also asked if the checklist could be set-up on each individual project on the extranet so the contractor and RCE could see the status/location of each submitted item? This would assure all the required items could be submitted one time and processed ASAP.

Charles stated he would look into a checklist.

Stephanie asked if the Award Letter instructing the contractor to contact the DEA to schedule the Pre-Construction Conference could

be modified to have the DCE as the contact person?

F. Discussion of Color of Protective Clothing for Construction

Marty stated that many contractors would prefer to use vests made of florescent lime-green material rather than the standard orange vests as specified by SCDOT, due the orange vests "blending in" with the traffic control barrels.

Charles stated SCDOT is revising this spec. so that any ANSI certified color will be acceptable.

III. **Other Business**

A. Permanent Construction Signs

Mike stated that RCEs mark the sign locations, contractor installs the signs, and then RCE wants the tree limbs above the signs trimmed. Would it not be easier to shift the sign locations from under the tree limbs?

Charles agreed that RCEs should try not to locate signs under existing limbs, behind bushes, etc., but often the sign cannot be shifted for various reasons and the trimming of limbs is required.

B. Alternate Pipe

Jamie stated SCDOT is planning to implement the "Alternative Pipe" pay item next summer. This item will include corrugated wall pipe and will include fill height tables.

C. September Letting Date Change

Charles stated that due to the Labor Day holiday, the September letting date has been changed from 8th to the 9th.

D. MSE Wall Backfill

Sally stated the "Aggregate Committee" was reviewing the possibility of having a standard backfill material for MSE Walls. She requested that SCDOT continue to follow-up on this issue.

Jamie stated he will discuss with Ed Eargle to assure Geotech design reviews this issue.

E. In Memory of:

Sally asked for a moment to recognize the passing of Willie Frasier.

Charles requested a moment to recognize the passing of Glenn Thrift.

F. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2009.