



Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.
SECRETARY

June 18, 1999

THIS MEMO IS EXPIRED

MEMORANDUM NO. 19-99

TO: **DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS**

FROM: *for Charles Goodman*
Greg Xanders, State Construction Engineer

COPIES: Bill Albaugh, Charles Goodman, Archie Montgomery
Area Construction Engineers

SUBJECT: **MINUTES - QUARTERLY DCE MEETING - JUNE 16 - 17, 1999**

The following topics were discussed during the June 16 - 17, 1999 Quarterly DCE Meeting held in Tallahassee.

1. Lessons Learned from QA/QC - Greg Xanders:

To date, the Districts understand the goals and objectives of the QA/QC program; however, not all Districts have fully implemented the plan on all projects. There is considerable concern over the potential of extra paper work. Some Districts are reluctant to provide the checklists to inspectors. As the program gets further along the original fears seem to be diminishing. Feed back to the Resident Engineers and District Engineers should increase as the QC/QA proceeds. Greg asked that we focus on QC problems at the Resident Engineer's Meetings.

2. Night Work Lighting - Greg Xanders:

The National Truckers Association sent a letter expressing concern that there is a problem with lights shining in truck drivers eyes. This should be a concern of our MOT people in setting up the lights for a Construction site.

3. Time Suspensions - Greg Xanders:

The Transportation Commission and OPPAGA are looking at time extensions. Some DCE's have been issuing time extension letters that are questionable. We should be following the

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

June 18, 1999

Page 2

specifications; 8-6 and 8-7, in determining if the extension is appropriate. The State Construction Office will be doing a QAR on this item.

Each DCE is to send Ken Blanchard the specific reasons of why they want to use "suspensions" and "extensions." If the specifications need to be revised then State Construction Office will perform this function. A response from District Engineers is requested by July 2, 1999.

The Directors of Operations are evaluating Performance Measures for contract time.

A specification revision for 5-10 is scheduled for January 2000 issuance.

The State Construction Office will take another look at the "Conditional Acceptance" specification. The DCE's recommend going back to "Conditional Acceptance" on signals. A question was asked, can we go to a warranty period for lighting projects? If so, for how long? Duane Brautigam will coordinate further review of the signal specifications and lighting warranty specs.

Disputes Review Board - A question was asked as to whether the DRB can hear a dispute where Hillsborough County is restricting the Contractor from night work? No, positive answer was given. The current pay for DRB is \$3,000/mo if the contract has a DRB specification. New legislation changes the upper limits for taking an issue to the State Arbitration Board.

4. Alternative Contracting - Jan Borderlon:

Handouts were given describing the approval process. Justification by the Project Manager must be in the project file. Janice needs to know who in the Districts to contact for information. The DCE's are to provide this information by June 25, 1999.

5. QC 2000 Budget Training - Douglas Townes and Rob Elliott:

We are 54 weeks away from the starting gun. It will affect most of the DCE staff.

There will be two training facilities; Gainesville and Snapper Creek. All Districts are in the Pilot Program. We need more SUPERPAVE projects by S.A. Since we will be doing compliance

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

June 18, 1999

Page 3

verification, we only need to have a professional engineer to meet the P.E. issue compliance.

The training facility will have asphalt, aggregate and earthwork training labs. It will operate 5 to 6 days/week. It will offer 40 courses/year. The asphalt training lab will have 4 bays, 4 people/bay with hands-on training.

The CRI cannot be the Contractor's Engineer of Tests. Level I makes the test, Level II makes the changes to keep in compliance.

Douglas distributed two handouts on training. The DCE's need to have their comments back to Douglas by July 15, 1999.

6. Mandatory Pre-Bid - Juanita Moore:

Our policy is to not have a mandatory pre bid.

7. Structural Issues - William Nickas:

Screens on top of hopper for drill shaft concrete is OK if in Contractor's QC Plan. If you are getting more than a few balls, get in touch with your District Concrete Engineer for consultation. This will be a topic on the next District Concrete Engineers meeting.

Concrete pockets in precast segments are now showing up.

Apply curing concrete to all surfaces on MSE wall panels in the future.

A specification revision may be out for review soon to relax the wet cure period for concrete.

A new pile specification will be in July letting. Also, a new spec for profilograph on bridge decks greater than 300 ft., to address ripples in the deck, will be forthcoming.

8. Critical Bridge Operations - Steve Plotkin:

A critical bridge operations checklist was distributed for comment.

A web page has been developed for the Bridge Status Report. Steve will draft a proposed "Safety Check."

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

June 18, 1999

Page 4

9. EEO/DBE Issues - Ruth Dillard:

We are in the process of changing both the Federal funded projects and State funded project DBE program. There will be no goals, but tracking DBE participation will require more effort. The implementation of "No Goals" is scheduled for January 2000.

10. Extend Project Limits - Bill Downs:

This question will be researched by the State Construction Office as to whether the DCE can sign this document.

11. Flexible Pipe - Greg Xanders:

Smaller than 42" pipe we will visually inspect.

12. Materials Certification - Bill Downs:

Federal regulations dictate who can sign the materials certification. Currently, it is taking about 50 to 75 days to complete.

13. Performance Measures - Greg Xanders:

The Directors have been looking at what performance measures will be used in construction. Get with your Director.

14. CEI Costs @ 15% - Greg Xanders:

The legislature set the 15% goal. We will have to figure out how to track. Jim Martin discussed some guidelines that have been developed for reducing CEI costs.

15. Site Manager - Jim Johnson:

An update was presented. Over the past few months quite a few computers have been purchased. More computers will be purchased next year. Resistance to change is a problem.

16. EDMS - Jim Johnson:

District Six is scheduled for June 28, 1999, and the other Districts will be scheduled soon.

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

June 18, 1999

Page 5

17. Internet Page - Quinton Tillman:

Districts should submit material for use on the web page. Give as requests for improvement.

18. Final Estimates Process - Greg Xanders:

We are to move away from the Front Check/Back Check procedure. We should be moving toward QC/QA. Keep up with quantities as the project is constructed. DFEEs should try to implement the QC/QA plan within the next three months. Eduardo Perez indicated he may have a problem with this approach.

19. CPAM Update - Greg Xanders:

We are shooting for a July 1, 1999 update completion.

20. CEI Task Team Update - Greg Xanders:

We are looking at what should be counted Jim Martin will be requested to make a comparison of staffing from District to District for similar \$ volume projects with similar scope. This info will be sent to each DCE who will give their ideas to their CEI Task Team member.

21. New FHWA Exemption Agreement - Charles Goodman:

We will be getting maps of the NHS in Florida for distribution to DCE's. If you have questions about the new agreement, discuss with your Director. Basically, there will be FHWA Oversight and Central Office oversight projects on the NHS.

22. Cost Reduction Sampling & Testing - H :

QC 2000 will help some since we will only do verification testing. Tom Malerk will coordinate with QC 2000 teams to look at frequency of testing.

23. Claim Settlements, Code 851:

Only two conditions; court decision and arbitration rulings, will be coded 851 for supplemental agreements.

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

June 18, 1999

Page 6

24. Lost Samples - Greg Xanders:

If the DCE signs for accepting lost samples, send a copy of the decision to the State Construction Engineer. Need to work with Tom Malerk on this.

25. Requirement for Audit on Claim Settlement of \$500,00 or Greater:

The CPAM currently states that, "If a written request is submitted to the IG by the District Secretary-, then the IG shall perform an audit." This would allow the Department the latitude needed.

26. Range of Concrete Loss in Drill Shafts:

Ken Blanchard will have this topic addressed by the District Concrete Engineers and possibly set limits as to the amount of concrete loss that would be expected with the no consideration for additional pay. It is expected that these values would be stated in a revised special provision.

27. Contractor Milling Variations:

David Wang is requested to review with the Asphalt Pavement Committee what risk the Contractor is to assume when the contract plans show "Average Milling Depth," and there is considerable variation from the actual results obtained.

GX/mc