

Construction Cost Estimates QAR findings and Lessons Learned

- Plan and pay item notes continue to duplicate text from the Specifications. This is to be avoided.
- Traffic Operations sites should not use 695- pay items.
- Maintenance Only pay items (such as Desilting pipe) may not be used without being explicitly requested by District Maintenance.
- All Painted Pavement Markings are to be paid under pay item: 710-90 [Painted Pavement Markings- Final Surface]
 - RPMs are also to be included under this pay item.
- All pay items must be identified by both quantity and location on the summary box. When an Area ID or length & width columns are present, the designer must complete the required information.
 - Soil Tracking Prevention Devices and Inlet protection systems are to be identified by each location, not total quantity for the project.
 - Litter Removal and Mowing quantities should not be grouped together. They are to be shown separately, by location, using either Area IDs or Length and Width.
- Pavement Overbuild quantities must be totaled separately from Structural Course pavement quantities.
 - Any pavement pay items that are used in an estimate must be detailed on either typical sections or typical details.
- Always verify that Tabulation of Quantities sheet labels correspond correctly with plan sheet numbers.
- Per specification, conflicting pavement markings are included under payment for Maintenance of Traffic items. The removal of thermoplastic striping at the beginning of construction limits is not paid separately.
- Non-standard summary boxes are not to be used.
- Pay item descriptions are not to be modified or altered.
 - All descriptions are to match the pay item descriptions from the Master Pay Item List.
- Do not include permanent work items in Summary of Temporary Traffic Control Plan Items.
- Pay items 102-1 Maintenance of Traffic, and 102-2 Special Detour items should be located only in the Summary of Temporary Traffic Control Plan Items summary box and not in Summary of Lump Sum Items.
 - Despite being a Lump Sum pay item, Clearing and Grubbing quantities must include shape/location details and may not be listed with bounds from project “end to end.”
 - Clearing and Grubbing should also include all removal of flexible pavement.
- Pavement markings/striping
 - Thermoplastic striping is often neglected in early LREs and it is it never listed as a portion of the project unknowns. This is almost always a notable addition to the cost and needs to be incorporated earlier in the schedule.
 - Despite 6” white striping being included in almost every LRE, it is rarely accompanied by 6” yellow. This is true for both thermoplastic and painted pavement markings.
 - 6” White striping is frequently grossly overestimated.
- Earthwork
 - While difficult to quantify accurately in early phases, an approximate quantity and all types of necessary earthwork are to be included in early versions of the estimate.
- Erosion Control
 - Erosion Control related pay items are frequently added to later versions of the LRE and subsequently removed, or vice versa. The need for erosion control should be solidified earlier.
- Link to State website for Estimates Applications:
 - <http://www.fdot.gov/programmanagement/Estimates/EstApps/Default.shtm>