

TRAFFIC CONTROL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC²) MEETING MINUTES

9:00am – 11:30am

April 21, 2021

SKYPE

1.) Introductions:

a. Attendees included representatives from the following:

- Century Fence
- Mega Rentals
- Crowley Construction
- Rent-a-Flash
- Safemark
- Sun Safety
- WisDOT: Matt Rauch (BTO), Linette Rizos (BTO), Andy Heidtke (BTO), Erin Schwark (BTO), Casey Amans (BT), Josh Falk (NER), Joseph Schneider (SWR)

2.) New Topics:

a. **Not necessarily a BTO question, but how can we get the agency to issue estimates more-timely? At present, and this is just one example, we have been waiting well over 6 months to get paid because the project engineer “got moved to another job” and wanted to just do one final estimate rather than put one in for the \$150,000+ in striping we completed. Shouldn’t there be a “standard” similar to the 10 day pay rule that estimates have to be put in?**

- Brought to Wayne Chase & Rodney Taylor’s attention (WisDOT Bureau of Project Development) *Both unable to attend today’s meeting.
 - BPD is currently addressing this request, and they are planning on discussing it at an upcoming design meeting
 - WisDOT will provide industry with more information after further discussion

b. **The potential paint and epoxy shortage that is being talked about and how this will be handled.**

- WisDOT was made aware of the resin shortage that is impacting the production of both waterborne paint and epoxy (as well as MMA and polyurea products). Permanent tape and thermoplastics, which are not used on WisDOT projects, are not impacted to WisDOT’s knowledge.
 - Resin issues are also impacting other areas outside of pavement marking materials, including causing shortages in epoxy overlays for bridge decks, epoxy bar steel, and other materials.
 - WisDOT was recently notified of delays in extruded aluminum paneling, with lead times pushing up to 6-months once ordered, which impacts Type I signs
- The guidance for contractors is to work with Project Managers and Engineers, who will work with WisDOT regional staff, to determine other potential options to help get through the supply issues.
 - Contractors should discuss any issues they are seeing obtaining supplies/materials with the Project Manager

- Options may include the use of temporary tape, temporary markers, or other alternative products (if approved), or even additional reviews of work zones may provide opportunities to reduce pavement marking needs (will vary from project-to-project).
 - Project Managers, along with BTO, will also look at re-aligning stages (project timelines) to get through supply/material delays
- If contractors are aware of any alternative products that are available and could be used, please forward those requests to BTO, who will expedite reviews of potential new products to see if any can be used.
 - WisDOT recently received one request to use an alternative product, but it was denied.
 - Contractors should follow the guidance on the APL for getting new products added, if they are aware of any alternative options (contact Linette Rizos)
 - For product reviews, BTO will want to consider the following:
 - NTPEP tests
 - How did the product perform in adverse weather conditions?
How did the product handle beads?
 - Has the product been approved/used in other states?
 - Does the product have any accelerated weather testing?
- WisDOT BTO has been working closely with Ennis Flint, who has WisDOT's statewide waterborne supply contract, as well as WisDOT regional staff and the counties, to keep them up to date on these supply issues. WisDOT wants to make sure project staff are aware of it as well – will mention at the upcoming Design meeting
 - WisDOT is hearing that waterborne paint should bounce back quicker, with increased supply starting in May, has industry heard the same/different?
 - (Unknown): One attendee commented they are hearing of delays extending up to December for getting waterborne paint
 - (Century): Hearing delivery time is 8-12 weeks for epoxy. They are getting their orders, but the timelines are extended, and the epoxy providers are not honoring their contract prices (prices increased)
 - (Unknown): One attendee commented that Sherman Williams and Diamond Vogel have both indicated the same shortage issues
- (Sun Safety): There is another product from Traffic Safety Solutions, which are temporary overlay markers that could be looked at?
 - L-shaped polyurethane markers, with peel & stick application and a reflective strip
 - Commented that orange reflectors have been in testing for work zones and have shown to typically last 2-3 months. Could be a good option that has availability?

c. Any Smart Work Zone plan needs to be sent to both the engineer and Bureau of Traffic Operations per the STSP.

- WisDOT reminder to industry, please send/email any Smart Work Zone Plans to WisDOT (send to the Project Engineer and to the BTO Shared Box) for a QA/QC review to make sure the plan meets specifications.

d. U-Channel Posts (DOT BTO):

i. Background: An inspector on a project inquired about what posts were being used. Telespar was listed in the plans, but that is not what was being used. The inspector asked to see the letter of certification, and it did not meet NCHRP 350.

1. Because of MASH implementation plan for work zones, Category 3 devices can be used up through 2030.

a. Post Mounted signs fall into Category 3.

- There was an inspector inquiring about post mounted signs, and BTO was working with them on how to handle
 - The contractor provided WisDOT with a test letter for the posts being used based on NCHRP 230, which is no longer acceptable
 - If contractors start getting questions on post mounted signs, the posts need to at least meet NCHRP 350 standards (an NCHRP 350 test letter is required)
 - WisDOT has now implemented MASH standards, but NCHRP 350 devices can be used until 2030 for Category 3 devices, which include post mounted signs
 - Contractors need to make sure that posts/signs are installed based on how they were tested
 - (WisDOT NE Region): With this U-channel item, is this a statewide issue or a particular contractor issue (have not encountered this in NE Region)?
 - Per BTO review, this seems to be a statewide issue and not necessarily limited to a single contractor

3.) Other Items?:

a. DT Forms (Pavement Marking) – Will the forms be updated?

- Mega Rentals inquired if there are any additional changes to the Longline & Special Marking DT forms, or if the intention is to keep the latest versions for the 2021 construction season (they had made some requests to re-format the form, such as utilizing additional check boxes)?
 - Mega had sent their questions to Jeannie, who is out on leave until June, so BTO requested any inquiries be re-sent to Matt Rauch & Linette Rizos for further review

***General Note: If anyone has sent materials/emails to Jeannie Silver over the previous 6-weeks, she has been out on leave, so it has not been addressed unless others were copied. Please re-send those items/questions to WisDOT BTO (Linette Rizos).**