



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 20100
Helena MT 59620

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

August 16, 2006

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2006

Carl James
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601-9785

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

**Subject: Statewide Pavement Preservation Project
VALIER - EAST
STPP 44-1(14)14
CN 5951000**

~~Dear Carl James:~~

The MDT Environmental Services Bureau has reviewed the Preliminary Field Review/Scope of Work Report (PFR/SOW) for the subject project. Based on the completed Environmental Checklist for Pavement Preservation Projects (Checklist), we have determined that the Statewide Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for these types of projects would cover this project. For your information, I have attached a copy of the PFR/SOW (including the location map) and the Checklist.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heidy Bruner at 444-7203. She will be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,

Jake Goettle, PE
Acting Engineering Section Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau

encl.

cc (w/o encl.): Mick Johnson	MDT, Great Falls District Administrator
Jean A. Riley, PE	MDT, Environmental Services Bureau Chief
Paul Ferry, PE	MDT, Highway Engineer
Mark Wissinger, PE	MDT, Construction Engineer
Suzy Price	MDT, Contract Plans Bureau Chief
Dave Jensen	MDT, MDT Fiscal Programming Section Supervisor
Stacy Hill, PE	MDT, Great Falls Environmental
Heidy Bruner	MDT, Environmental Services

cc (w/encl.): Bob Seliskar, PE FHWA, Operations Engineer
Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Pondera County Office (20 Fourth Ave SW, Conrad MT 59425-2340)
File

TLH:hsb\S\PROJECTS\GREAT-FALLS\5951\5951\ENCEDCSP1_PAVE PRES_GTF.DOC

(FOR PROJECTS WITH NO RIGHT-OF-WAY INVOLVEMENT)

Applicant cannot be authorized to proceed with the proposed work until ALL of the conditions of the checklist have been satisfied.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECTS (CRACK SEALING, SEAL & COVER, THIN OVERLAYS, MILL & FILL, PLANT MIX LEVELING, MILL OGFC, MICRO SURFACING, FOG SEAL)

Project No.: STPP 44-1(14)14 ID: UPN 5951000 Project Name: Valier-East

Reference Post (Station) RP 14.130 to Reference Post (Station) RP 28.259

Applicants Name: Montana Department of Transportation Address: PO Box 1359, Great Falls, MT 59403-1359

Type of Proposed Pavement Preservation Activity: Work Type 183 Resurfacing – Seal & Cover

Table with 3 columns: Impact Questions, [Y/N] There are Potential Impacts; or Item Requires Documentation, Evaluation, Mitigation Measures, and/or (a) Permit(s), and Comment or List Documentation, Evaluation, Mitigation Measure, and/or (a) Permit(s) Required for Items 1 through 7. Rows include questions about river impacts, threatened species, water quality, wetlands, hazardous waste, and Indian Reservations.

8. Magnitude and significance of potential impacts: To be completed by applicant.

Checklist prepared by: Christie McOmber District Project Engineer July 24, 2006 Applicant Title Date

Approved by: [Signature] ACTING ENGINEERING SECTION SUPERVISOR 8/17/06 Environmental Services Title Date

(when items 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 6a, or 7 are checked "Yes")

- A. The applicant shall complete the checklist indicating a "Yes" or "No" for each item, except number 8 which may require a narrative response.
- B. When a "Yes" is indicated on any number of items 1 through 7, MDT must explain why and provide the appropriate documentation, evaluation, permit, and/or mitigation measures required to satisfy environmental concerns for the project. Use attachments if necessary.
- C. If the applicant checks "Yes" for any one item, the checklist and MDT's mitigation proposal, documentation, evaluation and/or permit shall be submitted to MDT Environmental Services. Contact Number 444-7228.
- D. When the applicant checks a "Yes" item, MDT cannot be authorized to proceed with the proposed work until Environmental Services reviews the information and signs the checklist.
- E. MDT will obtain all necessary permits or authorizations from other entities with jurisdiction prior to beginning the Pavement Preservation Activity.

Montana's Wild and/or Scenic Rivers system as published by the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), or the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (USDol)

1. Middle Fork of the Flathead River (headwaters to South Fork of the Flathead River confluence)
2. North Fork of the Flathead River (Canadian Border to Middle Fork of the Flathead River confluence)
3. South Fork of the Flathead River (headwaters to Hungry Horse Reservoir)
4. Missouri River (Fort Benton to Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge)



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Paul R. Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

From: Christie W. McOmber, P.E. *CWM*
Great Falls District Project Manager

Date: July 24, 2006

Subject: STPP 44-1(14)14
Valier-East
UPN 5951 000
Work Type 183: Resurfacing - Seal & Cover

We request that you approve the **Preliminary Field Review/Scope of Work Report** for the subject project.

Approved *Paul R. Ferry* Date 7/24/06
for Paul R. Ferry, P.E.
Highways Engineer

We are requesting comments from those on the distribution list. We will assume their concurrences if no comments are received within **two weeks** of the approval date.

The same report is also being distributed under a separate cover as a Scope of Work Report for comments and approval.

Distribution (all w/ attachment)

Jim Walther, Engineering	Chris Jain, Road Design
Ivan Ulberg, Traffic & Safety	Bret Boundy, Geotechnical
Mark Goodman, Hydraulics	Dave Jensen, Fiscal Programming
Pierre Jomini, Safety Management	Walt Scott, Utilities
Sue Rowell, E.I.S.S.	Alice Flesch, Acting ADA Coordinator
Greg Pizzini, R/W - Access Management	Pamela Langve-Davis, Bicycle & Peds.
Drew Livesay, M.C.S.	Highways File
Becky Duke, Traffic Data & Collections	

Pondera Co. Commissioners
20 4th Ave. SW
Conrad, MT 59425

Preliminary Field Review/Scope of Work Report
STPP 44-1(14)14
Valier-East
UPN 5951 000

I. Introduction:

This report was developed from information taken from the preliminary field review conducted on March 14, 2006 with the following personnel in attendance:

Steve Prinzing	Engineering Services Engineer	Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Projects Engineer	Great Falls
Ed Toavs	Assistant Construction Supervisor	Great Falls
Jeania Cereck	Design Supervisor	Great Falls
Keri O'Reilly	Design	Great Falls
David Wollan	Maintenance Superintendent	Shelby
Jim Cornell	Traffic & Safety	Helena
Gerry Brown	Construction Oversight	Helena
Steve McEvoy	Surfacing Design	Helena
Dan Hill	Surfacing Design	Helena

II. Proposed Scope of Work:

This project is nominated as a preventative maintenance seal and cover. The intent of this project is to extend the life of the pavement by chipsealing the existing roadway.

- A. The plans for the proposed project will be in route posts starting at RP 14.130 and ending at RP 28.259. *The project was extended from the nomination of RP 14.299 to RP 27.865. During the Field Review it was decided that the project should begin where the Valier-West project physically ended at RP 14.130 and should also extended past the frontage road (RP 27.865) to the Pondera County Line-South project (RP 28.259).*
- B. The existing horizontal and vertical alignment will be used throughout the project. No work is planned on the existing guardrail or end treatments.
- C. The project was nominated at \$605,000. The estimate includes mobilization, traffic control, construction engineering, and contingency. This estimate also takes into consideration an inflation rate of 3% for 1 year.
- D. The project is being designed in the Great Falls Design Unit and has a ready date of **July 2006**.

III. Project Locations and Limits:

- A. The project is located in Pondera County on Montana Primary Highway Route 44 between Valier and I-15; the functional classification is Minor Arterial and the project is designed to the geometric design criteria of a Rural Minor Arterial. The project begins at RP 14.130 and proceeds east for approximately 14.129 miles to the west edge of the Valier Interchange overpass on I-15 at RP 28.259. The Valier city limits are located at RP 14.299.

B. As-Builts:

Project ID	From		To		Year Built
	Station	RP	Station	RP	
STPP 44-1(10)14	51+00.00	14.299	774+00.00	27.865	1999
S 357 (11)	0+00.00	27.865	17+00.00	28.185	1972
I 15-7(14)"H"	17+00.00	28.185	27+73.9	28.388	1972

C. Adjacent projects:

ID Number	Project Name	Project Type	From RP	To RP	Year
STPP-F 44-1(7)0	Valier-West	Reconstruct	0.000	14.130*	2004
IM 15-7(31)343	Pondera County Line-South	Seal & Cover	28.259	28.517	2006

*Adjusted from As-Builts to match the actual project end.

IV. Physical Characteristics:

The P.T.W. traverses a rural area with generally rolling terrain used primarily as farm and range land.

A. Project History:

1. Original Construction:

- a. The construction of RP 14.299 to RP 27.865 consisted of 0.30' of plant mix and 2.35' of crushed base course. The project was constructed with two 12.0' wide traveling lanes with 2.0' shoulders. The total surface width of the roadway is approximately 28.0'.
- b. The construction of RP 27.865 to RP 28.259 consisted of 0.20' of plant mix, 0.20' of crushed top surfacing, and 1.50' of crushed base course. The project was constructed with two 12.0' wide traveling lanes with 5.0' shoulders. The total surface width of the roadway is approximately 34.0'.

B. PVMS Data:

The recommended treatment in the PvMS Pavement Conditions and Recommended Treatments Report for the 2005 survey year is crack seal and cover.

PVMS INDICES	
RP 14.299 to RP 27.840	
Ride	78.5 (Good)
Rut	78.9 (Good)
Alligator Cracking	98.3 (Good)
Miscellaneous Cracking	99.1 (Good)

PVMS INDICES	
RP 27.840 to RP 28.388	
Ride	77.7 (Good)
Rut	75.9 (Good)
Alligator Cracking	91.1 (Good)
Miscellaneous Cracking	88.9 (Good)

C. Horizontal & Vertical Alignment:

The existing vertical and horizontal alignments meet current design standards for preventative maintenance seal and cover.

1. The maximum grade is 4.00%, which meets the Geometric Design Criteria for Rural Minor Arterials for rolling terrain.
2. The minimum horizontal curve radius is 5,729.58', which exceeds the Geometric Design Criteria Rural Minor Arterials radius of 960' for 55 mph design speed.

D. Bridges:

There are no structures within this project.

V. Traffic Data:

Traffic Data is not required for seal and cover projects.

VI. Accident Analysis:

Accident Data is not required for seal and cover projects.

VII. Major Design Features:

A. Design Speed:

Using the Geometric Design Criteria of a Rural Minor Arterial and rolling design control, the Road Design Manual qualifies this project for a design speed of 55 mph. The posted speed limit:

1. 35 mph from RP 14.130 to RP 14.267
2. 45 mph from RP 14.267 to RP 14.665
3. 70 mph from RP 14.665 to RP 28.259

B. Horizontal Alignment:

The existing horizontal alignment is adequate for a preventative maintenance treatment and no changes are proposed with this project.

C. Vertical Alignment:

The existing vertical alignment is adequate for a preventative maintenance treatment and no changes are proposed with this project.

D. Typical Sections:

The project is designed to seal and cover the total roadway width of approximately 28.0' from RP 14.130 to RP 27.865 and 34.0' from RP 27.865 to RP 28.259.

E. Surfacing Design:

No surfacing design was requested for this seal and cover.

F. Geotechnical Consideration:

Due to some concern with random alligator cracking in the outside wheelpaths an investigation was conducted. The subgrade and base appeared to be in excellent condition according to Non Destructive Testing and Field Lab Results. Depths, gradations, and moisture content were within tolerance. The failure appears to be in the plant mix only. As the results appear to show that failures are related to plant mix depth below plan depth and potentially some spring break up from unsealed cracks, maintenance will remove and patch the failed areas before the chipseal. As there is a potential that failures may occur, it was decided to have maintenance continue addressing them until the normal timing for an overlay (3-4 more years) is reached.

No geotechnical issues will be addressed with this seal and cover.

G. Hydraulics:

No hydraulics issues will be addressed with this seal and cover.

H. Bridge:

No Bridge involvement is anticipated as there are no bridges within the project limits. No work on the bridge rails or bridge approaches is planned.

I. Traffic and Safety:

New pavement markings will be required. This will include the two shoulder stripes, centerline stripes, and the railroad crossing. No signing, rumble strips or guardrail improvements are proposed on this project.

VIII. Other Projects:

During the 2006 construction season, project IM 15-7(31)343 will seal and cover to the east end of the project. (UPN 5761000)

IX. Design Exception:

The design exception process does not apply to pavement preservation projects.

X. Right-Of-Way:

No new right-of-way will be required on this project.

XI. Access Control:

Access Control will not be implemented on this seal and cover project.

XII. Utilities/Railroads:

No utility involvement is anticipated for this seal and cover project. The project intersects the Burlington Northern Railroad at RP 14.351. An agreement with the railroad will be required.

XIII. Survey:

No survey will be required on this seal and cover project.

XIV. Public Involvement:

Due to the limited scope of the project, a level "A" public involvement plan should suffice. This will include a news release to the local media.

XV. Environmental Considerations:

No apparent significant environmental issues have been identified. It is anticipated that the project meets the criteria for the Statewide Programmatic Categorical Exclusion. An environmental checklist is being supplied with the Preliminary Field Review/Scope of Work Report.

XVI. Traffic Control:

Traffic will be maintained throughout the project during the construction with the appropriate signing, flagging, etc. All signing will be in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

XVII. Preliminary Cost Estimate

Roadwork		\$ 401,000
Traffic Control	8%	\$ 32,000
Subtotal		\$ 433,000
Mobilization	12%	\$ 52,000
Subtotal		\$ 485,000
Contingencies	10%	\$ 49,000
Subtotal		\$ 534,000
Inflation	3% for 1 year	\$ 16,000
Total Construction		\$ 550,000
Construction Engineering	10%	\$ 55,000
Project Total		\$ 605,000

XVIII. Ready Date:

The project is being designed in the Great Falls Design Unit and has a ready date of **July 2006**.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT STPP 44-1(15)14

RESURFACING - SEAL AND COVER

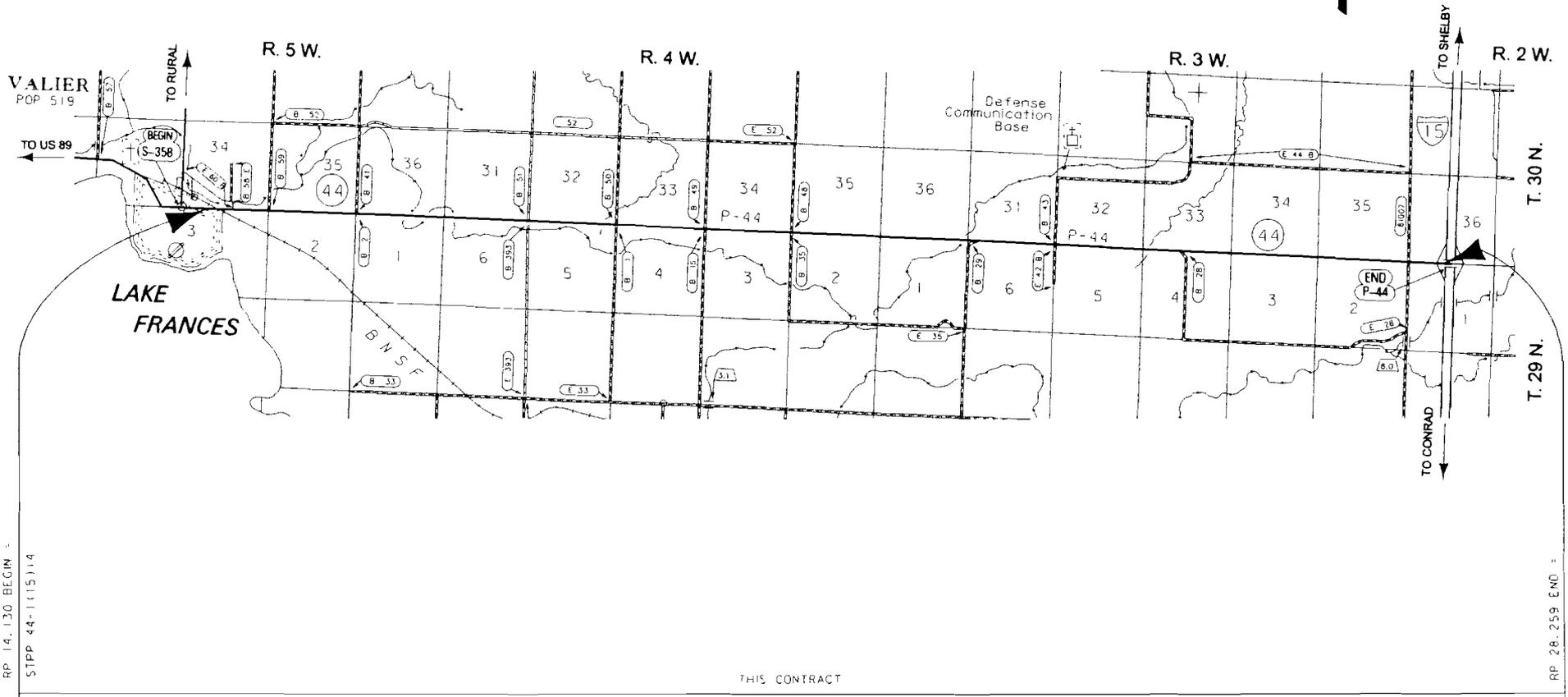
VALIER - EAST

POWDER RIVER COUNTY

LENGTH 14.1 miles

NO SCALE

POWDER RIVER



RP 14.130 BEGIN
STPP 44-1(15)14

THIS CONTRACT

RP 14.1 TO RP 28.3

RP 28.259 END
STPP 44-1(15)14