

Appendix C

Public Involvement and Participation

1. Topics - Transportation Planning Issues and Communications Series, April 2007 – Early Coordination article (Page C.1-1)

April 2007



Early coordination with MDEQ Water Bureau part of Storm Water Management Plan

In late December of last year, the MDOT Environmental Committee approved implementation of a new procedure wherein MDOT will coordinate post-construction storm water management design with the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Water Bureau on select MDOT road projects. The new procedure is being implemented as part of MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) under our statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This statewide permit is issued by MDEQ Water Bureau under authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the federal Clean Water Act. It is designed to protect the waters of the state from environmental impacts associated with increased development and specifically, to mitigate the negative effects of increases in road runoff volume and associated pollutant load.

The NPDES permit allows MDOT to discharge storm water runoff from our roadways to waters of the state provided that the provisions of MDOT's SWMP are met. These provisions include a variety of activities related to six categories which include:

- Education and outreach,
- Public involvement/participation,
- Illicit discharge elimination,
- Post-construction storm water management,
- Construction storm water runoff control, and
- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for MDOT operations.

Over the past five years, MDOT has been increasingly incorporating post-construction storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) into its roadway project designs. Beginning this year, MDOT will submit project designs for review by MDEQ Water Bureau district staff on projects that meet certain "triggers". These include projects which disturb an area equal to or greater than one acre and include either a new storm water outfall or a twenty percent increase in the volume of storm water runoff, and which also discharge to a sensitive water body. Sensitive water bodies include designated trout streams and lakes, coldwater lakes, Outstanding State Resource Waters, and water bodies with a promulgated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain pollutants.

A primary goal of the new procedure is to determine the need for post-construction storm water management during the scoping process. Early identification of the need for storm water BMPs will provide project managers with a more accurate idea of project funding needs, particularly if right of way is necessary, prior to selecting projects for the five year call.

Meetings are currently being scheduled with each region to discuss implementation of the new Early Coordination Procedure. To obtain a copy or for questions regarding this procedure, MDOT's NPDES permit, Storm Water Management Plan, or post-construction BMPs, please call Bethany Matousek, Aquatic Resource Specialist, or Judy Ruszkowski, Storm Water Program Manager. Questions regarding BMP design, sizing, manufacturer's specifications, and trouble shooting can be directed to Coreen Strzalka, Drainage Design Specialist.

Transportation Trivia.....

Where was the first full-size subaqueous tunnel built in North America?

Answer on page 4



Featured Acronym:

PMBOK®

(Find it somewhere in this issue)