



**ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2021, 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
VIA TEAMS**

Present: Carol Aldrich Mark Dionise Ryan Mitchell Brad Wieferich
Mark Bott Mark Geib Kristin Schuster Gorette Yung
Gregg Brunner Jason Gutting Will Thompson Hal Zweng

Absent: Matt Chynoweth Rebecca Curtis Tony Kratofil Brandy Solak

Guests: David Coger Ben Krom Jayme Rubley Dave Weber
Patricia Johnson Clint Mayoral Pablo Sanchez
Kevin Kennedy Jim Ranger Brett Schlager

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of the October 28, 2021, meeting minutes – Brad Wieferich

ACTION: Approved

2. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) new materials and products – Jason Gutting

ACTION: For information only

NEW BUSINESS

1. Safety Topic: Holiday Decorating – Mark Dionise

<<See Appendix A>>

ACTION: For information only

2. New Roundabout at M-46 and Federal Road in Montcalm County – Patricia Johnson and Dave Coger

Issue Statement – New Roundabout at M-46 and Federal Road

Major Issue(s) – Internal transportation service center high severe crash location, severe angle-straight and rear-end crashes resulting from a combination of high speeds and failure to yield for the current rural isolated signal. Current intersection alignment of M-46 is significantly angled to Old-131. State Linear Park White Pine Trail also has no physical

change that would show a crossing and combined with its close proximity to the signal, results in many reported near misses with snowmobilers and pedestrians. Severe crash of snowmobiler failing to yield in 2018.

Background/History – 1970s railroad was abandoned, and gate crossing signal was removed, 1996 Old-131 (Federal Road) was turned back to Montcalm County, 2002/2003 signal was modernized to diagonal span with camera detection, 2018 signal was changed to wood pole box span in response to crash damage to signal.

Friends of White Pine Trail support tee in of the trail and request a refuge island. This works well with the islands used to separate roundabout leg traffic.

Recommendation(s) – Construction of new roundabout within existing right of way. Shift the trail away from the intersection to the west and tee in with median protection. Offset roundabout to the north to improve sight distance for higher speed westbound traffic.

The trail would be closed during construction and temporarily rerouted to the west outside of the construction limits.

Status – Has preliminary approval from the Safety Call for Projects Committee and draft job number.

ACTION: Roundabout approved conceptually, and basic design will be brought back to the EOC for further consideration. The Engineer of Design and Traffic Recommendation Committee Chair will develop further EOC guidance about the timing of roundabout submittals.

3. Revision of Guidelines for Administering Warranties-Road and Bridge Construction Contracts – Kevin Kennedy

Issue Statement – Revision of Guidelines for Administering Warranties – Road and Bridge Construction Contracts

Major Issue(s) – One course mill and hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlays and one course HMA overlays will no longer have warranties for projects under \$2 million beginning with the January 2022 letting. The Manual needs to be updated to align with this change.

Background/History – This change was approved at the November State Transportation Commission meeting.

Recommendation(s) – Approve manual revision.

ACTION: Approved

4. Alternate Pavement Bid in Livingston County, University Region on I-96 from Chilson Road to Dorr Road Freeway Reconstruction – Ben Krom and Jayme Rubley

Issue Statement – Alternate Pavement Bid (APB) in Livingston County, University Region

Route/Location: I-96 from Chilson Road to Dorr Road Freeway Reconstruction

Job Number: 130001

Control Section: 47065

Letting Date: September 2022

Total Est. Const. Cost: \$68.2M Road

Major Issue(s) – Use of APB on I-96 Design-Bid-Build project.

Construction Field Services coordinated with the project office and calculated a preliminary life cycle costs analysis on this project and determined that the difference between the pavement options was 8.46%. Concrete was the low-cost alternative.

The Life Cycle Cost Analysis was ran following the new user delay cost ‘capping’ policy, and the TSC is in support of the current \$87,000/day user delay cost and does not plan to pursue a reduction.

Both pavement alternates are expected to have similar environmental, right of way, drainage, and utility impacts along with similar maintaining traffic concepts. Paving is the controlling operation for the construction schedule.

Background/History – The project appears to meet the criteria for the use of APB.

Recommendation(s) – The Innovative Contracting Committee recommends approval of the use of APB on this Design-Bid-Build project.

ACTION: Approved

5. New Roundabout on M-136 (Keewahdin Road) at North Road in St. Clair County – Brett Schlager

Issue Statement – New Roundabout on M-136 (Keewahdin Road) at North Road in St. Clair County including removal of existing traffic signal, bypass and turning lanes.

Job Number: 201174

Control Section: 77091

Letting Date: 12/02/2022

Major Issue(s) – No anticipated issues at this time.

Background/History – Currently this intersection is signalized while also providing a bypass lane for M-136 west bound traffic. MDOT was originally planning to upgrade this signalized intersection including improved detection to optimize operations; however, the St. Clair

County Road Commission had proposed additional improvements on the local system that would improve the overall traffic operation. MDOT, in collaboration with the St. Clair County Road Commission, have pooled funds to program the above referenced project to improve operations and safety while also reducing maintenance cost.

After modeling the proposed roundabout results show a single lane roundabout with no bypass lanes provides a Level-of-Service A.

We are currently developing preliminary plans and have provided the latest Plan View for this intersection. Lansing Geometrics approves of this design and has been heavily involved in review of initial conceptual drawings, Base Plan files, traffic modeling and geometric configuration thus far to improve this intersection while limiting ROW and environmental impacts.

There was a virtual public meeting held on August 31, 2021. Since no one attended this meeting, the project was also publicized through MDOT Bay Region's twitter feed, as well as St. Clair County Road Commission's Facebook page, which has received a mix of public comments typical to roundabout projects. An additional public meeting is anticipated prior to bid letting once the construction staging and construction schedule is determined.

The Environmental Classification was obtained on November 3, 2021.

Recommendation(s) – Approval of the 2023 construction of a roundabout at the above location by Engineering Operations Committee at the December 9, 2021, meeting.

Status – We are currently developing preliminary plans with an anticipated December 10th submittal.

ACTION: Approved

6. Request the use of Job Order Contracting to provide routine maintenance for ground mounted permanent freeway sign repairs within Wayne County – Pablo Sanchez, James Ranger, and Clint Mayoral

Issue Statement – Request the use of Job Order Contracting (JOC) to provide routine maintenance for ground mounted permanent freeway sign repairs within Wayne County.

Major Issue(s) – Proposing the use of indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracting, specifically JOC, based on work operations being performed on an as-needed basis. Contract will be used to repair/replace damaged signs throughout Wayne County. Most damaged signs are a result of crashes, which is an unpredictable event, the exact quantity and schedule will be unknown for the life of the contract.

Project Location: Various freeways (I-75, M-10, I-96, I-275, M-39, I-94) within Wayne County (Metro Region/Taylor TSC jurisdiction)

Project Cost: \$450,000 annual; Contract to be a 3 year with 2 additional optional years.

Funding: State Trunkline Fund Taylor TSC portion for maintenance operations; fiscal year will be based on when the work is performed (FY22, FY23, FY24)

Letting Date: TBD, proposal timeline created by purchasing once package is ready for bid.

Job Number: REQ 22*751

Control Section: Various

Procurement and payment will be via SIGMA by Taylor TSC staff. SIGMA bid package will include schedule A statement of work, schedule B pricing, proposal instructions, standard contract terms, standards, and frequently used special provisions. Work Orders will be generated and processed thru ArcGIS.

Payment for traffic control associated with this contract will be managed in a simplified manner. Implementation of temporary traffic control devices will be performed per MDOT Maintaining Traffic Typical, although the vast majority is anticipated to be performed utilizing mobile closures.

Recommendation(s) – The Innovative Contracting Committee recommends approval to use JOC.

Status – New

ACTION: Approved

7. Other Topics/Information

The January and February 2022 EOC meetings will be entirely virtual. Looking forward to March 2022 to begin hybrid EOC meetings.

Carol Aldrich, Secretary
Engineering Operations Committee

RA:lrb

cc: EOC Members	C. Libiran (MDOT)	D. DeGraaf (MCA)
Meeting Guests	L. Mester (MDOT)	C. Mills (APAM)
Region Engineers (MDOT)	C. Newell (MDOT)	D. Needham (MAA)
Assoc. Region Engineers (MDOT)	M. Ackerson-Ware (MRPA)	R. Vandeventer (MITA)
TSC Managers (MDOT)	T. Burch (FHWA)	
L. Doyle (MDOT)	R. Brenke (ACEC)	

Appendix A – Safety Topic

Trees

Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection.

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible.

“Snow”

Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels; follow directions carefully.

Lights

Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.

Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted! To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a tree, never fastened onto it!

Keep “bubbling” lights away from children. These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink liquid, which contains a hazardous chemical.



A publication of the U.S. Consumer
Product Safety Commission

Candles

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.

Always use non-flammable holders.

Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Trimnings

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass “angel hair” to avoid irritation to eyes and skin.

Choose tinsel or artificial icicles or plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

In homes with small children, take special care to:

- Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.
- Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.
- Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food. A child could eat them!

Fires

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that flue is open.

Keep a screen before the fireplace all the time a fire is burning.

Use care with “fire salts” which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals which can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten. Keep away from children.

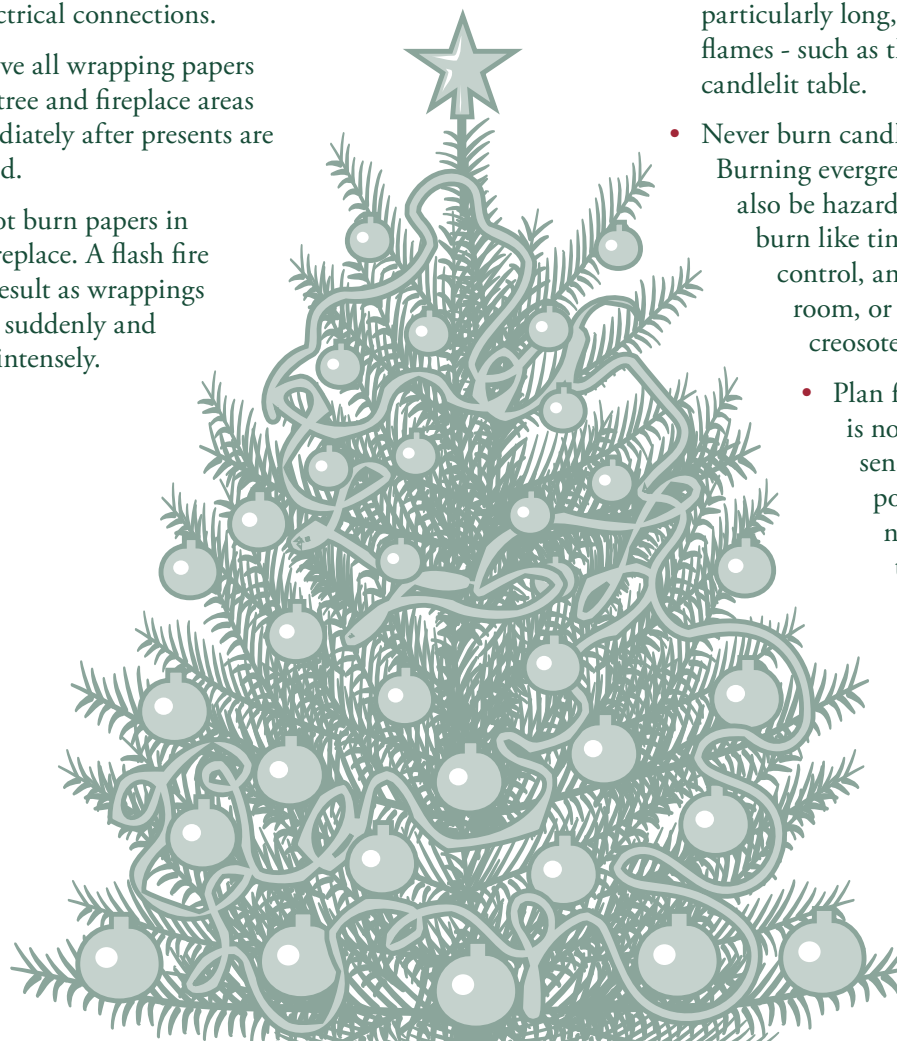
Paper

When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant.

Never place trimming near open flames or electrical connections.

Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.

Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.



General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes—particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.