



**VISION ZERO**


zero deaths  
zero serious injuries

Montana Department of Transportation

PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001

**Memorandum**

To: Distribution

From: Jake Goettle, PE  
MDT Construction Engineer 

Date: March 20, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 and Current Status of Project Delivery

The Department is taking the spread of COVID-19 very seriously and is implementing several measures to limit the spread. These measures include working remotely when possible, educating folks on the importance of proper hygiene practices, frequent cleaning of surfaces in and around our office buildings, and implementing social distancing among other measures.

At this time, the Department will continue to move forward with all projects scheduled for letting and construction in our current future projects lists. Projects will be advertised and let as normal. Electronic bid submission is highly encouraged; however, paper bids will still be accepted in our Construction Contracting Bureau. Public bid openings will be accessible using Skype, a web browser or by telephone. Additional information and updates can be found on the Departments Announcements page at this link: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/>

As the construction season begins, it will be critical that our Contractors and the Department work closely to assure projects proceed as scheduled while adhering to the safety measures above to limit further spread of the virus. Things to consider during construction are ways to eliminate or limit face to face meetings, regular cleaning of common work areas, such as field labs and construction vehicles and equipment, limiting carpooling, or other social distancing measures.

The Department and MCA are having on-going communications to understand the impacts to our industry. MDT and MCA will partner together to work through this pandemic. We will utilize Standard Specifications for extension of contract time with proper documentation. This includes contract time if Contractors core crews are impacted or material supply or shipping is delayed due to the COVID-19 impacts.

MDT Construction individuals and Contractors need to have discussions regarding the "what if's" of future changes. In the event additional restrictions are implemented to limit the spread of the virus, such as a shutdown of construction activities (as an example only), projects need to be in a state that the traveling public can use the facility in a safe

manner for an extended period of time. For instance, if a detour is constructed today for the removal of a bridge. That detour needs to be designed and constructed with the possibility of an extended use. Or, if a reconstruction project is going to remove the PTW, the travel way for the public needs to be able to be reopened and safe for all users. This should be a consideration and discussion on all projects under construction now or beginning construction in the near future.

As much as safely possible, MDT and our Contractors must work together to have a safe and healthy construction season.

copies:      District Administrators  
                 District Construction Engineers  
                 District Construction Operations Engineers  
                 Engineering Project Managers  
                 District Lab Supervisors  
                 MCA Board of Directors  
                 David Smith, MCA Director  
                 Lucia Olivera – FHWA Division Administrator  
                 Chris Riley – FHWA Field Operations Supervisor  
                 Dwane Kailey, PE – Highways and Engineering Administrator  
                 Dustin Rouse, PE – Preconstruction Engineer  
                 Kevin Christensen, PE – Chief Operating Officer