

2008 WFL-Contractor Conference Missoula Montana April 2 and 3 2008

The 2008 WFL Contractor Conference was held on Thursday, April 3, 2008 in Missoula, Montana. The meeting was hosted by Western Federal Lands Highway Division to provide an outreach to the highway construction industry. The goals of the meeting were to update contractors on new and emerging emphasis areas, to obtain industry feedback, and to improve the quality and consistency of Western Federal Lands construction projects.

The Conference began on the evening of April 2 with a social meet and greet at the Wingate Inn. The informal atmosphere was conducive to informal discussions between the guests and WFL personnel. The following day was a full day of presentations providing updated information regarding WFL programs, specifications and other items of interest. This year two contractors provided presentations one, Debco on a current construction project with WFL and one from Kiewit Western concerning contractor Quality Control.

Overall the conference was a success as it was an opportunity for Contractors and FHWA to discuss current events and provide feedback. The following is a listing of comments received from the audience.

USFS – Forest Highway Program

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Good comments, good info and the tape was very good.
- Good showcase of the Forest Highway Program, how it fits with the audience.
- Great Presentation
- Good to see the forest service's involvement with the access roadways
- Good video
- Good overview of the entire program
- Enjoyed the great historical pictures on the DVD. Valuable information presented

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Very good
- Video is informative and pertinent. Would be interested in watching the whole DVD
- Good presentation
- Complete overview

Creating “Machine Control” Models from Cross Sections

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- The contractors had a great deal of interest in this subject. It seemed somewhat technical, but it still generated a lot of discussion and Steve responded very well.
- Good info- look's like it may work well.
- A little too item specific for contractors not in that industry.

- Is the future, need to know the options out there.
- Too technical of a presentation. He should have just explained what he was after, not all the technical stuff.
- Wave of the future.
- Wow – I was lost in the beginning – Too technical
- Way too smart for this crowd

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- We received a lot of information and I think this is an area where we need to move forward and implement the new technology.
- Very good
- More on field application – implementation
- Too technical for the group
- I'm sure Steve has a passion for this subject but still too technical and somewhat dry.
- Good opportunity for questions
- Good presentation
- Wandered too far into the technical discussion with one member of the audience
- Great when can we start using this?

Contracts

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- She answered all of the questions well
- Good presentation
- Lots of comments, so must have been appropriate

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Gave lots of opportunity to ask questions
- Good for the amount of time which was right as well (could have gone on forever)
- Very good most of the time

Salmon River Project

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- This was great! Thanks
- Was the project a success for the owner? Was it a financial success for the contractor? Was the outfitter compensated for their losses?
- Good presentation – nice success story
- Good to hear from contractors, community information and involvement
- Great presentation
- Great slides (visual aides), interesting subject matter
- Could have presented in more detail the contractors perspective -0 did more generally – good recovery from Clara
- Good to hear about actual project experience
- Very good

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Good to have another contractors, see methods and approaches that are innovative
- Looks like a challenging job – you should be proud – it looks great!

- Time was good and contract issues good
- Glad to see contractors here – problems with the public discussed
- Very good, interesting project

Project Delivery

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Very good, covered all the items very good
- Good to learn organization for contracts also for incoming projects information
- Good presentation
- Might have been some overlap with Clara's presentation

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Answered all the questions, easy to follow
- Excellent – good to know some of the internal working of the WFL
- Good chance to answer questions

Materials

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Very good, lot of good info
- Well given, another good topic, technology for the future
- Great presentation
- Very good new ideas
- Warm mix, superpave – specifications and new methods
- Showing pictures of comparison was extremely helpful
- John's presentation was excellent, hit all the key points. The pictures (infrared) were worth \$1 million

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Very easy to understand – very interesting
- Well given, another good topic, technology for the future
- Great presentation
- Good job. Real stuff
- Loved the side by side comparison. Pictures were great
- Good honest advice from John to contractors – what to consider when they upgrade to hot plants. I like how John focused on one topic and really went into depth on that one topic. Very educational

Kiewit Quality

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Had some great ideas on QC procedures. Very knowledgeable.
- It was beneficial to have the other contractors see how Kiewit runs a successful QC program. Sharing ideas
- Great information tracking
- Good delivery – very good program
- Good speaker, good info

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Enjoyed this gentlemen's comment on Quality within his business
- Great overview of their program

- Detailed example of a quality control program
- Power point was very good
- Great visuals of their reports

Environment

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Spec are unclear with new rules
- Great Tip
- A little dry of topic for this late in the afternoon
- These are real issues
- Good technical info. Said “ok” to often. Slide program was good
- It was appropriate and it was friendly, not “preachy”

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Presentation somewhat confusing on requirements
- This is info that will help the contractor complete their project and is needed. Overall very good. Be good to have handouts for the group. A lot of info in the power point, hard to keep up with notes
- Good discussion of non-commercial source clearance

Contractor QC

The topic mix (technical, contractual and national interest) was appropriate.

- Marty did a good job of presenting this topic. This should have been in the morning part before lunch.
- Good topic – made easy and understandable – is the coming future
- Marty did a good job
- Marty did a good job. I enjoyed his forthrightness and real examples
- QC always changes and always a topic of concern
- Good speaker – keep interest
- Review FAA guidelines for contractor QC
- Informative ideas on QC

The level (depth) of the discussion was appropriate.

- Good power point slides. Would be good to have handouts
- Someone who isn’t familiar with forms may still be confused
- Good topic, easy and understandable
- Good topic
- Very thorough - Good delivery

General Information

The number of topics addressed was appropriate for the time period.

- Very good list of topics
- A day well spent
- Partnering and interchange of ideas to create quality products at reasonable costs to the public. FHWA is open-minded to the ideas of the contracting community
- Excellent presentation from everyone!
- Loved Missoula, Thanks! Keep the conference small
- Specific problem resolution strategies used in past projects

- This was well put together, all speakers well done
- Thank you! Good conference. Bob Templeton – great speaker! Inspirational. Most of the conference was very interesting and informative.
- Good mix of FHWA/non-FHWA presenters. Should have no less than 3 non-fed presenters

If this type of seminar is held again, the subjects my office is most interested in are:

- Review last years project, discuss changes for next years projects, project future work
- Not much was discussed about partnering
- QC, specifications, new methods
- Same, with current updates
- Streamlining contract and spec.
- Submittals review
- Daily processes, and future directions of the WFL
- EA design engineer – construction
- Always QCQA. Discussing any problems between WFL/FHA and contractors. Never try to get item specific without breakouts
- The movement to patterning between the contractor and FH
- Materials specification – contract compliance

The best time of year for this seminar is:

- Spring
- Early spring
- Earlier (Feb/Mar)
- Now
- March/Feb
- Winter
- Feb, Jan
- Spring is good
- Spring
- Non-construction season
- Jan/April
- Good time of year
- Dec to Apr
- Mid winter – early spring
- Early spring
- March
- February 31 2009
- Jan – Mar 1
- Late winter Jan-Feb
- Winter

Other Comments:

- Have the next one in Portland or Vancouver
- Should be held at a hotel with a restaurant and lounge
- More contractor presentations
- Good session
- I sure enjoyed meeting everyone

- I loved Bob Templeton comments! He made some excellent points that really need to be thought about. Thank you!!
- More hands on
- Narrow room, would be better if more square
- Disagreed with broadening superpave items –lets cover what interests a broad spectrum of contractors with what we all can use and need to do.
- Handouts of presentations in packets
- This has nothing to do with this conference, but the fact that two of our consultants attended gave me the idea that perhaps WFLHD should do a one or two day training conference with our design consultants.
- We really had a good technical presentation from our staff (Jody, John, Steve) and this bolsters WFLHD's reputation among the contracting community.
- Very smooth conference – no mishaps whatsoever