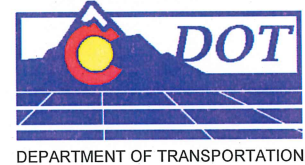


MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Materials and Geotechnical Branch
4670 Holly Street, Unit A
Denver, Colorado 80216
(303) 398-6564
FAX (303)398-6504



DATE: December 4, 2012

TO: CDOT Materials Engineers

FROM: Bill Schiebel, Materials and Geotechnical Branch Manager

SUBJECT: Use of ME Design on CDOT Projects

CDOT is actively developing the local calibration coefficients and a Pavement Design Manual along with a database for pavement designers to be used with the ME Design software. A group of experts from CDOT as well as industry are developing the values for distress thresholds and reliability to be used for designing CDOT pavements. This will ensure that the pavement structures using the new mechanistic empirical methodology are accurately designed.

It is anticipated that the draft CDOT ME Design Manual will be completed and designers will be trained in the near future. As unanimously approved by the November 14th, 2012 Materials Advisory Committee, it is our recommendation that the ME Design process should not be used on any CDOT projects, including design/build projects, until the draft ME Pavement Design Manual is issued and design staff have completed their training.

Our goal is to have the draft Pavement Design Manual ready for trial purposes by CDOT forces to assess the various input requirements. This trial period is expected to last about one year. During that time, the Region Materials Engineers will run a ME Design along with a traditional design. Both design processes will be analyzed to compare thickness. Until the ME Design is formally adopted by CDOT, the Region Materials Engineer will make the thickness determination using the traditional methodology.

cc: K. Moore
C. Wieden
R. Goodrich
G. DeWitt
E. Archuleta
M. Ghaeli
J. Goldbaum