Research Project Statement

Fiscal Year: FY 2005
Project Statement Date: January 15, 2004

Project Number: 0-4998
Title: Standardization of Special Provisions and Determination of Unit Costs for Utility Installations
RMC Number: 3
Developed By: TAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TxDOT Project Personnel</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Area Code/ Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Fax Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator (PC)</td>
<td>John P. Campbell, P.E.</td>
<td>ROW</td>
<td>512-416-2918</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcampbel@dot.state.tx.us">jcampbel@dot.state.tx.us</a></td>
<td>512-416-2904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Director (PD)</td>
<td>Jeff Masek</td>
<td>HOU</td>
<td>713-802-5503</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmasek@dot.state.tx.us">jmasek@dot.state.tx.us</a></td>
<td>713-802-5640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Advisors (PAs)</td>
<td>Gary Ray</td>
<td>HOU</td>
<td>713-802-5953</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gray@dot.state.tx.us">gray@dot.state.tx.us</a></td>
<td>713-802-5030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Randy Anderson</td>
<td>ROW</td>
<td>512-416-2953</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rander0@dot.state.tx.us">rander0@dot.state.tx.us</a></td>
<td>512-416-2909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mak Saeedi</td>
<td>ROW</td>
<td>512-416-2957</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ssaeedi@dot.state.tx.us">ssaeedi@dot.state.tx.us</a></td>
<td>512-416-2909</td>
</tr>
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Duration (# of years): 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Total Budget: $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional FYs</td>
<td>$</td>
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Project Description: Over the years, TxDOT has developed Standard Specifications, Special Specifications, and Special Provisions that apply to the construction and maintenance of highway facilities. This documentation contains very little information regarding required methods or procedures for the installation of utilities within the ROW. The Utility Accommodation Policy contains specifications that prescribe the minimums with respect to accommodation, method, location, and maintenance of utility installations within the ROW. However, in an effort to better document TxDOT’s requirements concerning the installation of utilities within the ROW, districts frequently end up developing their own sets of special provisions (e.g., one special provision for buried copper communication and T.V. facilities, another special provision for high pressure gas pipelines, and so on). Despite efforts to coordinate the development of such forms among districts, many versions of similar forms exist within the state.

There is a need to catalog, review, compare, modernize, and provide recommendations leading to the standardization of special provisions for utility installations at TxDOT. There is also a need to review what is done around the country and evaluate utility industry construction specifications. The need is critical as the number of utilities allowed within the TxDOT ROW continues to grow, as the number of utility installations that span district boundaries continues to increase, and a time when TxDOT is beginning to automate the utility permitting process.

Closely related to the issue of standardizing special provisions is the issue of determining unit costs for utility installations. Currently, TxDOT does not have a listing or otherwise a procedure for determining unit construction costs for utility installations within the ROW. This lack of information is negatively affecting TxDOT’s ability to negotiate utility relocations, particularly those that are reimbursable. There is a need to review existing utility adjustment records, evaluate utility industry indexes, and develop a procedure and corresponding listing for unit construction costs for utility installations within the ROW.

Suggested tasks include the following:

- Catalog, compile, and compare special provisions for utilities around the state
- Conduct literature review to evaluate special provisions for utilities used in other states
- Evaluate utility industry specifications
- Develop standardized set of special provisions for utility installations
- Formulate recommendations with respect to potential modifications to the Utility Accommodation Policy
• Review existing utility adjustment records and documentation
• Evaluate utility industry construction cost indexes
• Develop unit construction costs for utility installations within the ROW

**Deliverable Products And Reports:**

The following are minimums:

1. **P1.** Standardized Set of Special Provisions for Utility Installations.
2. **P2.** Recommended modifications to the Utility Accommodation Policy.
3. **P3.** Unit costs for utility installations within the ROW.
4. **P4.** Estimated benefit of research calculated in terms of potential safety, cost savings (to TxDOT), and project delivery. The benefit will be expressed in quantitative and qualitative terms. This product will be provided separate from other deliverables. The purpose of this product is to define the benefit of the research conducted in order to enhance implementation.

**R1.** One Research Report that provides detailed documentation of all research performed, methods used, and that fully supports the recommendations and conclusions contained therein.

**Project Summary Report**

**Implementation:**

The expected products of the research could have a significant impact on how utilities are managed and installed with the TxDOT ROW. Standardized special provisions would provide a quality framework for the installation of utilities within the ROW during the utility permitting process, and would also result in significant benefits in terms of standardizing specifications for utility installations in TxDOT construction projects. A listing of unit construction costs for utility installations would enable TxDOT better control during the utility relocation process, particularly in situations where TxDOT has to pay for the utility relocations. Implementation will be statewide.

**Pre-proposal Meeting:**

☑ Yes ☐ No Please contact the PD for date, time and location of the pre-proposal meeting.

**Sole Source Justification, if applicable:** N/A

**Proposal Submission:**

- Proposals are required to be submitted in both hard copy (4 copies) and PDF format (1 PDF file per proposal). Both formats are used within TxDOT for evaluating the proposals and must contain identical information.
- The “Background and Significance” portion of the proposal should be limited to 10 pages.
- All proposals from researchers should be sent directly to your university’s Research Liaison for submission to RTI. The Research Liaison is TxDOT’s official contact with the university.

1. All individuals interested in proposing are encouraged to contact the PC or PD by February 12, 2004.

**Deadlines (for RTI use only):**

2. Proposals are due to RTI by 4:00 p.m. CST on March 24, 2004.