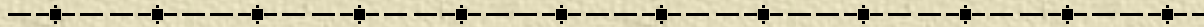
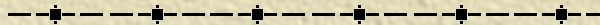





NCAUPG Workshop and Conference



Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri
January 10 – 12, 2006





NCAUPG
Technical Workshop
Session 2 - Outline

Useless Specs
An Audience Generated Discussion

Useless Specs

We've All Got'em, Somewhere

✦ Definitions

- ◆ **Standard:** something established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example : CRITERION
4 : something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality
- ◆ **Specifications:** **2 a :** a detailed precise presentation of something or of a plan or proposal for something -- usually used in plural **b :** a statement of legal particulars (as of charges or of contract terms)

✦ Purpose

- ◆ Efficiency
- ◆ Define an expectation level (Set the Rules)

Useless Specs - What are they?

✦ Other Definitions

◆ **Useless:**

having or being of no use: **a** : **INEFFECTUAL**

b : not able to give service or aid : **INEPT**

◆ **Ineffectual:** **1** : not producing the proper or intended effect : **FUTILE**

Our Age of Anxiety is, in great part, the result of trying to do today's jobs with yesterday's tools.

Marshall McLuhan

Useless Specs

...Sometimes we just live with them

Why change any? Good, Bad, or Otherwise.

✦ List Possible Benefits

✦ Identify the Process Used for Creating a List

✦ How will Implementation be Achieved

Keep in Mind:

All written requirements have at least one thing in common ... cost (to both buyer and seller).

Organize the Topics

Group or Categorize

- ◆ Subjective Measures Used During Evaluation
- ◆ Outdated (ex: Methodologies No Longer Used)
- ◆ No Data Currently Being Collected
- ◆ Non-Uniform Enforcement
- ◆ Potential Impact to Product

Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count;
everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted.

Albert Einstein

Where to Start?

Specification Review By Topics

✦ **Testing Frequencies (Seller/Buyer)**

✦ **Sampling**

- ◆ Coarse Mixtures

- ◆ Sampling Devices

- ◆ Certification Requirements

✦ **Contractor Assurance**

✦ **Compaction Specifications**

✦ **Verification & Dispute Resolution**

✦ **Acceptance and Basis for Pay**

Useless Specs

- ✦ Begin the Dialog (Internal and External)
- ✦ Open the Communications
- ✦ Specifying agencies, contractors, consultants, and FHWA all bring different experiences to the table
- ✦ Good time to review older methodologies making way for the next generation of specifications (performance-based?)

If we all worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true is really true, there would be little hope of advance.

Orville Wright