

## ***The Michigan Department of Transportation Introduces New Quality Initiative for Bidding Process***

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased to announce that the new Design Package Evaluation (DPE) initiative is now available to Contractors.

MDOT works with Program Managers, Delivery Engineers, Quality Assurance Engineers, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Contractors to improve the quality of the Plan and Proposal Package used for the advertising and bidding processes.

Plan and Proposal materials are reviewed and evaluated throughout the plan development process. Evaluations are completed for both in-house and consultant designed projects. The stages at which evaluations are performed include:

- Scope Verification
- The Plan Review
- Omissions/Errors Check Meeting (OEC)
- Pre-Construction Meeting
- Post-Construction Meeting
- Final Right of Way

As many as 21 factors are used to evaluate the Plan and Proposal Package. Factors include, but are not limited to:

- Plan Clarity
- Plan Organization
- Overall Plan Accuracy and Completeness
- Special Detail Plans and Special Provisions
- Quantity Accuracy and Reliability
- Construction Progress Clause

When a factor receives a rating of Below Average or lower, the evaluator must enter a comment, and may also attach supporting documentation. This option ensures that the deficiency is fully understood and assists with determining the proper corrective action. Accurate and detailed comments are essential components in the process.

All of the information collected is used to identify and address deficiencies, thereby improving the quality of the Plan and Proposal Package. Once an evaluation is completed and submitted, it is stored in a database which is periodically sorted and analyzed. The information is shared with each MDOT region. Corrective action is proposed, approved and implemented for identified issues.

DPE is an Internet Web-based application that is simple to use with its easy-to-understand layout and menus. Whether the user is a novice or an experienced engineer, DPE is designed so that users can enter evaluations with ease, flexibility and autonomy. The graphic below is an example of a factor screen.

DPE - Design Package Evaluation		Modify Evaluation	
<b>* = Required Fields</b>			
<b>Contract Id:</b>	25074-100179	<b>Process Step:</b>	Post-construction Review
<b>Route:</b>	M-54	<b>Location:</b>	M-54 at Reid Road
		<b>Major CS:</b>	25074
		<b>TSC:</b>	Davison TSC
<b>Brief Description :</b>	Plan Clarity		
<b>Detail Description :</b>	Plans are clear and not cluttered		
<b>* Rating :</b>	<b><u>Excellent</u></b>	<b><u>Above Avg</u></b>	<b><u>Satisfactory</u></b>
	<b><u>Below Avg</u></b>	<b><u>UnSatisfactory</u></b>	<b><u>Not Applicable</u></b>
	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(3)</b>
	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(N/A)</b>
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Rating Comments :</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="button" value="Save All"/> <input type="button" value="Final Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Show All"/> <input type="button" value="Back to List"/>			

On November 17, 2008, the Design Package Evaluation became available to external customers. By making DPE available to both Contractors and Consultants, another valuable source of input is added to DPE and MDOT's effort to improve the quality of its bidding process. Both Contractors and Consultants are encouraged to participate.

DPE Evaluators must subscribe to the DPE application through the State of Michigan Single Sign On. For information on creating a new State of Michigan Single Sign On account and subscribing to DPE, go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9625\\_51875---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9625_51875---,00.html)