Bid Items

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
Current Challenges

The Bad and the Ugly
#1: Too Many Bid Items

- We currently have nearly 2,500 bid items.
  - Not inherently a problem
- We use only ~500 on a semi-regular basis
  - Semi-regular = 10+ times since 2008

- Why is this a problem?
  - Slows down SiteManager database
  - Compounds Materials Interests
  - Confusing to all—So many we’ve got duplicates!
  - Difficult to process change orders
  - Difficult to search through
#2: Special Note Item Orphans

- New bid items are made with a special note in mind.
- Once bid item created, the special note often gets lost.
- Designers/Construction Engineers then take existing bid items and use them without the intended special note.
- Result: Postmodern bid items with no absolute meaning, confusion for Contractors, possible claim/money loss for KYTC.
#3: Finding Existing Bid Items

- We get too many requests for new bid items to be created for items that already exist!
- Wastes time that we (Construction) could be using for other duties
- Please review updated list of available bid item on Division of Construction’s website THOROUGHLY.
- Link on Design’s website too
#4: Install vs. Normal

- Confusion about when and when not to use “Install” items
- “Install”, for KYTC use, means all materials for the bid item will be provided to the Contractor.
  - Bid items for labor and equipment only
- If the materials are not supplied by the KYTC or by the utility companies, please do not use “Install.”
  - This means that designers need to check with utility companies to find out which, if any, materials they are providing
#5: Utilities

- Not Cool!
- Not standard across the state
- Too many bid items
  - Use supplemental descriptions if possible
- Install vs. Normal
  - Utility company definition of “Install” may not be same as KYTC definition
#6: Confusion of Contract Documents

- Many requests for new bid items that are already specified in the contract documents ( Specs, Std. Dwgs) w/o special notes

- Ex. Transverse Benching requested as a bid item when it is incidental to existing Roadway Ex. or Embankment-In-Place bid items

- Creates payment disputes. KYTC will say benching is incidental to Ex. or EIP. Contractor says need to be paid for both Ex. or EIP AND Benching item.

- Please ensure that notes are included in contract documents when non-standard bid items are used
Solutions

The Good
#1: Use Supplemental Descriptions

- Rather than requesting new bid items, use existing bid items and add supplemental descriptions for specificity and perspicuity.

- Note: Each supplemental description can be up to 40 characters (including spaces)
#2: Simplify

- Goal for next Spec book is to simplify bid items
  - to free up database space
  - to eliminate unnecessary confusion
  - to make searching for existing items easier

- Ex. One bid item for all piling. Supplemental description will be used for size and shape
#3: New Bid Item Codes

- New bid item codes for new specs
  - Codes will tie each bid item to its primary spec book section for ease of finding them
  - Ex. Class A concrete: 601XXXXX

- New specs will ensure that all standard bid items will be referenced
#4: Make Letting-Specific Bid Items Obsolete

- In order to keep newly created items from being used without the specific note on other projects, all new bid items will be made obsolete in PES after each letting.

- Note: Items can be taken off obsolete status as needed. If used enough, we will make this a supplemental bid item.
THANK YOU

- Questions or Comments?

- Contact Info
  - rachel.mills@ky.gov
  - jon.canler@ky.gov
  - Jeremiah.littleton@ky.gov