



Bid Items

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly



Current Challenges

The Bad and the Ugly

#1: Too Many Bid Items

- o We currently have nearly 2,500 bid items.
 - o Not inherently a problem
- o We use only ~500 on a semi-regular basis
 - o Semi-regular = 10+ times since 2008
- o Why is this a problem?
 - o Slows down SiteManager database
 - o Compounds Materials Interests
 - o Confusing to all-So many we've got duplicates!
 - o Difficult to process change orders
 - o Difficult to search through

#2: Special Note Item Orphans

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

#3: Finding Existing Bid Items

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

#4: Install vs. Normal

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

#5: Utilities

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

#6: Confusion of Contract Documents

- o Many requests for new bid items that are already specified in the contract documents (Specs, Std. Dwgs) w/o special notes
- o Ex. Transverse Benching requested as a bid item when it is incidental to existing Roadway Ex. or Embankment-In-Place bid items
- o 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.
- o Please ensure that notes are included in contract documents when non-standard bid items are used



Solutions

The Good

#1: Use Supplemental Descriptions

- o Rather than requesting new bid items, use existing bid items and add supplemental descriptions for specificity and perspicuity.
- o Note: Each supplemental description can be up to 40 characters (including spaces)

#2: Simplify

- o Goal for next Spec book is to simplify bid items
 - o to free up database space
 - o to eliminate unnecessary confusion
 - o to make searching for existing items easier
- o Ex. One bid item for all piling.
Supplemental description will be used for size and shape

#3: New Bid Item Codes

- o New bid item codes for new specs
 - o Codes will tie each bid item to its primary spec book section for ease of finding them
 - o Ex. Class A concrete: 601XXXXX
- o New specs will ensure that all standard bid items will be referenced

#4: Make Letting-Specific Bid Items Obsolete

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

THANK YOU

- o Questions or Comments?
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