May/June Activities

MassDOT Intersection Update: The concrete intersection effort continues to move forward. I’ve had several meetings with the top MassDOT decision makers and they have committed to constructing several intersection projects with concrete. On May 30th Bill Cuerdon, Luke McHugh and myself, along with 8 MassDOT project development staff, spent the day on site visits at the first 2 intersection projects. The 1st project is in on rte.5 in W. Springfield & Holyoke. This project includes 5 intersections. The project will include some concrete rehabilitation of existing concrete pavement, as well as some full and partial concrete intersections. The project is at the 25% design phase and some details are still being thought through as to final design. This is most likely a late 2019, or 2020 project.

The next project is in Oxford, MA. at the intersection of rte. 20 & 56. This is a “Design Build” project which includes a new cut thru road, several U-turn lanes, and 3 intersections. This will most likely be a combination of concrete and asphalt due to staging challenges. This is also looking to be a 2020 project. Both site visits went well with a lot of very good dialogue and sharing of ideas by all, to make both of these projects successful. The other benefit to the day was continuing to strengthen our relationship with the MassDOT team. By the end of the day you could see a big change in the comfort level in the use concrete on these projects by some of the Dist. 2 & 3 staff. MassDOT was actually coming up with great ideas on how to introduce concrete into extra sections of the project that weren’t originally discussed in order to make these roads more durable and sustainable.

During these site visits MassDOT started talking about their concerns in regards to sidewalks spalling/scaling on several projects. After a lengthy discussion, I offered to come present before their team, and contractors who do MassDOT work, to educate them on how to help eliminate these problems. MassDOT was appreciative of my offer and committed to scheduling something soon. I’m hearing this more & more all the time from producers and contractors. We need to start working on this with the installers, or this issue will start costing us work!

The Baystate Roads Program—Our concrete sidewalk classes continue to be a success! We are scheduling a class for late June for the City of Boston. P.Gioioso & Sons will provide concrete finishers to work with the Boston DPW to install a section of sidewalk.