Recent Estimating Trends

Quantities
Ensure someone has reviewed miscellaneous quantities. A good estimate cannot be accurate with errors in the quantities.

Project Attributes

Project Bundling
There may be good reasons to bundle projects. When projects are more than a mile apart, they likely will not see an economy of scale advantage. **Unit prices are typically closer to pricing quantities for each project, location and each construction stage.** Consider the role of prime and subcontractors when bundled projects contain work that is not a similar work type. Subcontractors tend to bid mobilization and other incidentals into bid items they are completing.

Bid Items

Adjusting Prices into Current Dollars FDM 19-5-5.3.7
The WisDOT Chained Fisher Construction Cost Index (WisDOT CCI) is an indicator of construction cost escalation over time and is updated each quarter by calendar year. **Do not forecast prices past the current date. Use the current WisDOT CCI value.**

Asphalt Pavement Items
**Geographic location of the project has a larger factor in asphalt pavement unit prices than mix design.** Bid prices for other asphalt bid items in a similarly priced area should be considered. The Asphalt Price Map provides unit price ranges that should be used for the initial estimate. FDM 19-5-5.2, FDM 19-5-5.3.8 and the Estimating Tools Website contain links and guidance to the Asphalt Price Map.

Mobilization and Traffic Control
Mobilization costs make up a larger percentage of the work in small and large proposals. Use the Similar Projects Tool for more accurate Mobilization percentages. Traffic Control percentages and costs also are available in the Similar Projects Tool. Links to this tool are on the Estimating Tools Website and FDM 19-5-5.2.

Recent Higher Bid Items
The following bid items have been coming in much higher in recent lettings. Please use bid history as recent as possible for these items.
- Concrete pavement items
- Drainage items
- Epoxy Paint
  - The December 2018 Standard Specifications modified the thickness of the epoxy paint to be placed and the beads required. Bid prices have increased since the December 2018 Letting.
Recent Estimating Trends

Top Items Bid Above Estimate (November 2018 to September 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>Freq. &gt;1%</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Bid</th>
<th>Item Difference</th>
<th>Perc. Diff. (by Est.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>619.1000</td>
<td>Mobilization</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>$38,752,974</td>
<td>$65,472,984</td>
<td>$26,720,010</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SPV.0035</td>
<td>Special CY</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,735,107</td>
<td>$32,919,771</td>
<td>$57,752,919</td>
<td>$24,833,148</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>205.0100</td>
<td>Excavation Common</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,988,962</td>
<td>$20,351,052</td>
<td>$29,375,427</td>
<td>$9,024,375</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>415.0100</td>
<td>Concrete Pavement 10-Inch</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>416,987</td>
<td>$17,862,495</td>
<td>$26,638,028</td>
<td>$8,775,534</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>206.1000</td>
<td>Excavation for Structures Bridges (structure)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$1,951,988</td>
<td>$10,290,520</td>
<td>$8,338,533</td>
<td>427%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SPV.0060</td>
<td>Special EACH</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23,100</td>
<td>$12,810,022</td>
<td>$21,080,923</td>
<td>$8,270,902</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Items Bid Below Estimate (November 2018 to September 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>Freq. &lt;1%</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Bid</th>
<th>Item Difference</th>
<th>Perc. Diff. (by Est.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>205.0100</td>
<td>Excavation Common</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3,965,547</td>
<td>$27,728,203</td>
<td>$10,114,800</td>
<td>-$17,613,403</td>
<td>-64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>619.1000</td>
<td>Mobilization</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>$31,339,255</td>
<td>$20,173,014</td>
<td>-$11,166,241</td>
<td>-36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>305.0120</td>
<td>Base Aggregate Dense 1 1/4-Inch</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1,943,383</td>
<td>$22,809,060</td>
<td>$14,669,938</td>
<td>-$8,139,121</td>
<td>-36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Freq.**: Number of proposals the bid item was bid above or below the estimate.
- **Freq. >1% or Freq. <1%**: Number of proposals the bid items was bid significantly higher or low than the estimate. The difference between the total cost of the item and the estimate, expressed as a percent of the estimated total contract cost, is greater than 1%.
- **Quantity**: Quantity total for bid items bid above or below the estimate.
- **Estimate and Bid**: Estimate amount and low bid amount for bid items bid above or below the estimate.
- **Item Difference**: Bid item difference amount between the estimate and bid (Bid Column – Estimate Column).
- **Perc. Diff. (by Est.)**: Percent of item difference by estimate (Item Difference Column/Estimate Column)

Tables above are statewide totals from November 2018 to September 2019. Rejected bids are included, which provide a better picture for what items are estimated low. **Trends will vary in each region and program**. Programs and regions with higher budgets will greatly impact these lists.

Mobilization and Excavation Common show up on both lists. These items are likely the least accurately estimated bid item in the program.

September 2019