**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DATE: December 11, 2017 Special Provision No. 18-LPA4

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Acceptance for Projects let by LPA

Alabama Standard Specifications, 2018 Edition, shall be amended by the modification of SECTION 105 as follows:

**SECTION 105**

**CONTROL OF WORK**

**105.15 Acceptance.**

***This Article shall be amended by deleting Article 105.15 as written and the following substituted in lieu thereof:***

(a) CONSTRUCTION ACCEPTANCE INSPECTION.

Whenever the LPA considers the work provided for and contemplated by the contract is nearing completion, or within two weeks of written notice of presumptive completion of the entire project by the Contractor, the LPA and all pertinent personnel (its representatives, ALDOT Division, FHWA) will inspect all work in the contract. The Contractor should not presume completion of the entire project until permanent vegetation is established. If the LPA finds that the work has not been satisfactorily completed at the time of the inspection, the Contractor will be advised in writing as to the work to be done or the particular defects to be remedied to place the work in condition for acceptance for maintenance purposes. The Contractor will have a maximum of four weeks to correct and complete the items listed. Time charges should resume if the work is not completed in the four weeks.

(b) PARTIAL ACCEPTANCE FOR MAINTENANCE.

When requested by the Contractor in writing, the LPA may consider accepting a portion of the contract for maintenance prior to all items of work being completed. This will apply to vegetation establishment being restricted by seasonal limitations and all other contract items of work are complete. Once a satisfactory application of seed prescribed by the tables in Section 860 for Fall or Winter has been completed, time charges may be suspended or extended based on seasonal limitations in accordance with 108.07(c) or 108.09. Time charges should resume based on the first available date in the Spring to apply permanent vegetation as shown in the seed mix tables.

The LPA, with concurrence from ALDOT, will notify the contractor that they will assume maintenance of specific items or operations of work and will also indicate which items are not accepted. The partial acceptance letter to the contractor should also detail the disposition of time charges as indicated in the paragraph above.

Additional costs for completing the remaining items of work as a consequence of a partial acceptance such as traffic control and remobilization shall be borne by the Contractor. Partial acceptance shall in no way void or alter any terms of the contract.

Once the permanent vegetation has been satisfactorily established and any other pending item of work is completed, the LPA will accept the remaining items of work and assume maintenance of the project henceforth.

(c) FINAL ACCEPTANCE.

1. GENERAL.

Upon due notice from the Contractor upon presumptive completion of the remaining items of work in Subarticles (a) and (b) above, the LPA and all pertinent personnel will make an inspection. If all construction provided for and contemplated by the contract is satisfactorily completed, that inspection shall constitute the final inspection.

2. VEGETATION BONDS.

When directed by the LPA, the Contractor shall provide a vegetation bond covering sustained growth of established or planted vegetation. The bond shall be of sufficient value to cover all costs associated with the replanting or reestablishment of the vegetation should it become necessary. The dollar amount of the bond shall cover all costs for the labor, materials, and equipment required for traffic control, temporary erosion and sediment control, and permanent vegetation establishment. The period of time covered by the bond will not be required to be greater than 12 months unless shown otherwise on the plans. Vegetation bonds should not be used as a substitute for established vegetation of a permanent species.

3. ACCEPTANCE FOR MAINTENANCE.

Upon satisfactory completion of the work as noted in Item 105.15(c)1. above, the LPA will notify ALDOT that the contractor has completed all work required by the contract. After ALDOT has concurred with the LPA’s recommendation, the LPA will advise the Contractor in writing that the work has been accepted and the LPA will assume the maintenance thereof subject to the “record check” of materials and workmanship.

4. NPDES TERMINATION.

Within 10 days of Acceptance for Maintenance, the LPA will requests NPDES Permit Termination as outlined in Subarticle 107.21(d). The Contractor shall be responsible for stormwater runoff control on the project until the NPDES Permit is terminated or 30 calendar days after the LPA’s request for termination has been processed, whichever is less. The Contractor is also responsible for correcting problems associated with onsite erosion and off site sedimentation deposition during this time.

5. CONTRACTOR’S ADVERTISEMENT OF COMPLETION.

The Contractor, immediately after receiving Notice of Acceptance for Maintenance, shall give notice of said completion by an advertisement for a period of four successive weeks in some newspaper in general circulation published within the county in which the project is located. Final settlement with the contractor will not be made prior to the expiration of 30 days after the completion of the notice, although in fact, due to the amount of time generally taken up in complying with other requirements, final settlement will likely take well in excess of 30 days. If the project is located in more than one county, an advertisement shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation published within each county in which the project is located. Proof of publication of said notice shall be made by the Contractor to the LPA, by affidavit of the publisher, and a printed copy of the published notice. If a newspaper is not published in a county where work is done, the notice may be given by posting at the courthouse for 30 days and proof of same shall be made by the Probate Judge or Sheriff and the Contractor.

In cases where contractors are performing contracts of less than fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) in amount, the governing body of the LPA shall cause notice of final completion of the contract to be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation, published in the county of the LPA and shall post notice of final completion on the LPA's bulletin board for one week, and shall require the contractor to certify under oath that all bills have been paid in full. Final settlement with the contractor will not be made prior to the expiration of one entire week after the posting of the notice, although in fact, due to the amount of time generally taken up in complying with other requirements, final settlement will likely take well in excess of one week.

6. WRITTEN NOTICE OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE.

After completion of all requirements noted in this Article and Article 109.12, the LPA will process the Final Estimate for payment. At this time, the LPA will give the Contractor written notice that the project is completed, and will specify that date as Final Acceptance.