

Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee

Date: April 14, 2022 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Chair: Brian Sorenson- Director, Office of Traffic Engineering
Location: Microsoft Teams

Mission, Purpose, & Meeting Methods

- **Mission** – The SWWZSC will influence the actions of those involved with work zones through the information that is shared through the innovations and best practices that are identified so that we achieve safer work zones and fewer fatal and life changing crashes.
- **Purpose** to provide a forum for
 - Identifying work zone safety problems, safety areas, and help set priorities
 - Brainstorming ideas
 - Recommending direction to our functional offices and committees
- **Meeting Methods**
 - Committee, partner, and group reports with discussion. Representatives will give
 - Status report on Action Items (from previous meeting if assigned)
 - Update report on work zone safety issues

Welcome/Introductions (9:00-9:10)

- **Brian Sorenson – Director, Office of Traffic Engineering**
 - Introductions/Mic check
 - No Previous Action Items

Committee Reports (9:10-9:40)

- **Executive Committee**
 - Ken Johnson, OTE
 - No outstanding action items from the committee
 - Last meeting there was a review of the Speed Management Legislative Report, status of Work Zone training Initiative and Safety and Mobility Tech Memo, and update on maintenance items-Flagger TMA, ATMA, arrow boards
- **Traffic Engineering Organization Temporary Traffic Control (TEO TTC) Committee**
 - Michelle Moser, OTE
 - Improving TTC signing details

- Work Zone Safety and Mobility Technical Memorandum
 - Finalizing road closure details
 - Improving special provisions, new special provisions for Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit System, Speed Safety Vehicle
 - Flagging set up procedures and use of portable rumbles
 - Working with Tech Support Plan Review to improve TTC plans and plan reviews
- **Resident Engineers Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee**
 - Ted Ulven, OCIC
 - Projects are starting to move forward
 - Utilizing IDIQ for more items, refining the boilerplate special provision
 - Materials shortages-paint will be tight again, get orders in early
 - 3M is in good shape with removeable tape and all weather elements
 - Contact Ethan Peterson for pavement marking shortages
- **Time and Traffic Special Provisions Committee**
 - Ted Ulven, OCIC
 - 2562- extra traffic control items/extended use has updated prices and TPAR items added
- **Statewide Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee**
 - Bob Vasek, OM
 - Autonomous TMA-work on data privacy and security issues
 - Flagger TMA-waiting on TMAs
 - Continue extraordinary enforcement contract for maintenance work zones
 - Discontinuing some trinity items
 - Type III barricades and MASH compliance
 - Speed management strategies that maintenance can implement-VSF signs
 - Work Zone Intrusion App and esafe-utilize more for crash reporting
 - More media efforts to improve safety
 - Efforts to deal with violence towards plow drivers/maintenance
- **SWWZSC Industry Liaison Group**
 - Reed Liedle, Safety Signs/NLATSSA; Michelle Moser, OTE
 - Work Zone Reviews-working on improving issues with signing, delineation, etc. through training and inspection
 - Speed Management-working on implementing recommendations from Speed Management Report

- Field personnel are already commenting on speeds this season
- Electronic Workers Present and Vehicle Speed Feedback trailers may increase compliance
- Temp Overhead sign bridge-looking for opportunities to add them in places where it makes sense and supplement with preformed lane marking shields
- Temporary lighting improvements
- Education/Involvement-Participation in Transportation Day at the Capitol, National Work Zone Awareness week, MnDOT trainings, Northland ATSSA, Worker Memorial Day, Visitor rotation
 - Would like to work on landing page for all work zone training

Presentation and Discussion (9:40-10:00)

- **Work Zone Speed Management Legislative Report (powerpoint posted)**

Ken Johnson, OTE

- Two bills have gone through legislature in support, and advocating for speed safety cameras in school zones also.
- This was not included in omnibus bill. Working on amendment and legislation passed in House requiring MnDOT and DPS to come up with implementation plan. Conference committee to reconcile differences in bills. May be tough to get through Senate.
- Constitutionality has been questioned, speed management report explains a bit more, and implementation plan can address this also.
- **Action item: Increase legislative work zone visits across the state.**
- Video of maintenance operations experiencing vibrations from traffic passing by. This type of footage should be gathered and used more. It does trigger a lot of engagement.
- Conduent is willing to do another demo of the speed safety camera

External Partner Reports (10:00 – 10:30)

- **Law Enforcement**
 - Major Sean Meagher, State Patrol -no updates
- **Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program**
 - Bob Vasek, OM
 - Kathy Schaeffer has retired.
 - LTAP position has moved to State Aid office
 - Kathy's last few trainings have been recorded for use.

- Rick Shimion will also be retiring
- **Action item: State Aid, Traffic, Construction and Maintenance get together to discuss training continuity.**

- **Engineering Consultants**
 - Jon Jackels, SRF; Jeff Hilden, TKDA
 - **Action item: How do changes and improvements in plans etc. get communicated out to consultants?**

- **Northland Chapter of ATSSA**
 - Reed Leidle, Jay Blanchard, Ken Russell
 - Great turn out at the How-To Conference
 - Summer planning meeting July 11-12. **Potential topics for How-To breakout sessions would be appreciated.**
 - Continuing to partner with the MN Safety Council and MN Transportation Alliance. Warning Lites donated cones for the MN Transportation Day event.

- **Contractors**
 - Matthew Semerad, AGC; Woody Bear, Shafer; Jason Lindula, Egan
 - Reed Romer participates in the Citizens for Safe Work Zones
 - Seeing high speeds and using more flaggers at intersections. Seems like the public isn't used to flaggers in some of their areas.

- **TTC Providers**
 - Adam Berg, Ryan Kilpatrick, Matt Krengel, Street Smart Rental; Eric Johnson, Superior Traffic Services; Reed Leidle, Safety Signs; Tim Lewis, Warning Lites of MN
 - Reed – seeing a trend with the plans using long term layouts instead of site-specific TTC plans. With MnDOT plans. **Action: Add to Liaison Group Agenda.**

- **FHWA**
 - Jason Spilak, FHWA
 - FHWA did not attend, so no update.

- **Counties**
 - Wayne Sandberg, Washington County; Adam Bruening, Washington County; Vic Lund, St. Louis County
 - Thanks for allowing the counties to sit in. Helps them know the big issues. Seems like people aren't paying attention as they traverse work zones.

- **Municipal**
 - James Koslucher, City of Fridley
 - Not in attendance at the time

- **Utilities**
 - Dale Anderson, Center Point Energy; David Haedtke, Century Link
 - Nothing at this time.

Break (10:30-10:45)

Presentation and Discussion (10:45-11:15)

- **Science of Visibility**

Katie Aune of 3M gave a presentation. Been at 3M for about 10 years, and overall spent 22 years in this area. Also involved in the ISEA Committee working on the ANSI 107 specification. Also works on protective eye-wear. Katie will provide an article to include in the notes.

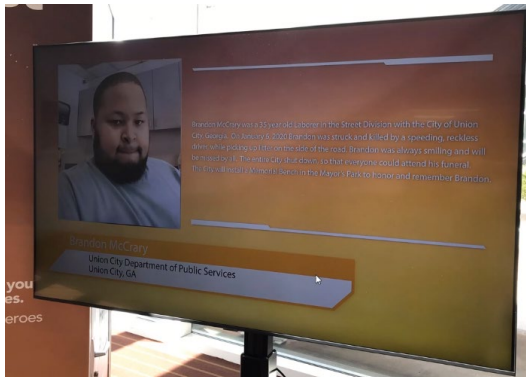
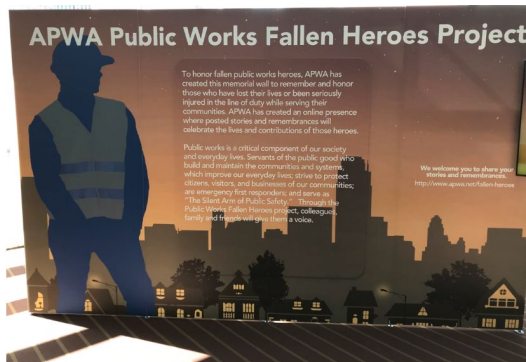
Katie provided the link: <https://www.biomotionlab.ca/html5-bml-walker/> to show how dots showing biometric points can even show emotion.

Question from Bob Vasek about work area lighting. Is there any information on where to put work lights? Katie was unaware of specific studies. Anecdotally, she mentioned that good lighting helps with recognizing color as opposed to retro. Better to not have the lighting plant set up behind the worker.

MnDOT Internal Partners (11:15-12:00)

- **Management Teams**

- PCMG & CMG – Mark Panek
- OMG – Sue Lodahl
 - There have been some ongoing discussions on how to handle work zone training due to staff retirements.
 - Bob Vasek went to an APWA Snow and Ice conference at which the following display was included.



- Steve Blaufuss has been out to try to get photos for National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.

- **Transportation Systems Management Operations**

- TSMO – Jed Falgren
 - The TSMO position hasn't yet been filled, but Jed is still plugged in.

- **Construction**

- OCIC – Tom Ravn
 - OCIC is concerned with speeds in work zones. Tom has done some traveling in locations with SSC and it makes a difference. Seemed to be more presence of enforcement in other states.
- Training/WZSAP – Jackie Brown/Ted Ulven
 - Have held 4 MnDOT Flagger Train the Trainer classes this spring. 57 new Flagger Trainers were trained.
 - The Traffic Control Supervisor training was deferred to ATSSA this spring. They provided both virtual and in-person training. The training was Minnesota specific. Had about 180 registered – not sure how many certifications.
 - Traffic Control Supervisor recertification training was held virtually – 3 e-learning online courses were offered. There were 165 individuals up for TCS recertification – 81 registered and successfully passed.

- Traffic Control Overview course was held online this year. About 140 attended. There wasn't as much class participation, but reviews were positive.
- Districts
- **Maintenance**
 - OM – Bob Vasek
 - Intrusion app is not on the app store yet. For when it is out there, need to have a login procedure. Bringing up at the various maintenance conferences. Also working on determining when to use for intrusion and when to use the crash reporting method. Sheila Johnson mentioned that this has been shown to the supervisors over the past couple of weeks. Some preliminary data was shared to show the importance.
 - Districts – Sheila Johnson
 - With construction activity increasing, there are many experience homelessness in the Metro area. MnDOT Metro has developed *Safety in the Right of Way* training to assist in dealing with those experiencing homelessness. 7 modules are available.
- **Communications**
 - Statewide – JP Gillach
 - National Work Zone Awareness week is going on. Posting something daily on MnDOT's social channels. Today will be posting a 360 degree situation with a crack-sealing operation under traffic.
 - Worker Memorial Day in a couple of weeks. There will be social media posts, governor's proclamation and I-35W bridge lighting.
 - Metro – Chris Krueger
- **State Aid for Local Transportation**
 - Statewide – Girma Feyissa, Rashmi Brewer
 - Districts – Mike Pretel
 - Mike mentioned that they are just starting up projects. The Cooperative Agreement projects follow the lane closure notification process the same as MnDOT projects. Some education has been done related to applicable crashworthy standards to local agencies.
- **Worker Safety**
 - Statewide – Todd Haglin, Keith Juliar
 - District – Troy Hollasch (D6)
 - Troy mentioned that there have been some orientation pieces being worked on statewide.

- **CAV-X**
 - Cathy Huebsch – Action: need to determine who from CAV-X will be replacing Cathy on the committee.

- **Traffic Engineering**
 - OTE – Brian Sorenson, Ken Johnson
 - Ken updated the group on the Comprehensive Work Zone Training Initiative. The original RFP that included Phase II and III of the initiative (based on the recommendations of Phase I) will should be updated to meet existing needs based on class availability and staffing changes.
 - Action: A small group of internal parties (including State Aid, Maintenance, Construction, and Traffic) will meet to discuss appropriate modifications to the existing RFP. Funding will also be pursued internal to MnDOT.
 - Districts – Ron Rauchle, Morris Luke, Jeff Rieder, Scott Meier
 - Morris Luke – TPI project has been using Extraordinary Enforcement and it appears that it's been helping keeping speeds down. Other projects, the district has been hearing from locals that speeds have been up on detour routes.
 - Jeff Rieder – 2 projects in D6 that will be using the Electronic Workers Present Speed Limits and 1 that is contractor option:
 - Electronic WPSL: 5580-94 (TH90), 7904-44 (TH61)
 - Contractor option Electronic/rigid signs: 8826-253 (Districtwide)

Adjourn (12:00)

Attendees: Ryan Kilpatrick, Adam Berg, Adam Bruening, Michael Beer, Jackie Brown, Cortney Falero, Austyn Dagen, Dave Meslow, Chris Dochniak, Jed Falgren, James Gillach, Angie Gustafson, Troy Hollasch, Jason Lindula, Jeff Hilden, Ken Johnson, Sheila Johnson, Jon Jackels, Katie Aune, Kevin Kosobud, Morrie Luke, Matt Krengel, Ron Rauchle, Tom Ravn, Mike Pretel, Reed Liedle, Jeff Reider, Brian Sorenson, Rod Starkey, Jeff Streeter, Tim Lewis, Ted Ulven, Bob Vasek