

## Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee

Date: November 19, 2021 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Chair: Tom Ravn- Director, Office of Construction and Innovative Contracting  
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)

- **Tom Ravn – Director, Office of Construction and Innovative Contracting**
  - **Introductions/Mic check**
  - **Previous Action Items:**
    - **Update on TPI Work Zone Road Safety Audit**
    - **Update on WZ Training Initiative**
      - Working group looked at benefits and cost to maintenance
      - RFP drafted in August '21, change in staff slowed progress down
      - Mark V and Ken J will be working on it going forward
    - **Executive committee goal setting for SHSP WZ actions**
      - Will be looking at in future meetings-3 focus areas for WZ

## Committee Reports (9:10-9:40)

- **Executive Committee**
  - Ken Johnson, OTE
    - Review of July minutes
- **Traffic Engineering Organization Temporary Traffic Control (TEO TTC) Committee**
  - Co-chairs: Jeff Morey & Michelle Moser, both of OTE
    - Clean up of 2563 Pay items
    - New steel barrier pay item and special provision, guidance related to use
    - Updates to Temporary Barrier Guidance Manual
    - Review of Work Zone Safety and Mobility Tech Memo and accompanying guidance
- **Resident Engineers Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee**
  - Dan Penn, Metro Construction and Ted Ulven, OCIC
    - Fall meeting was in October
    - Approved changes to 2562/63
    - Successful season-all projects will be in substantial completion or winter shut down
- **Time and Traffic Special Provisions Committee**
  - Ted Ulven, OCIC
    - 2563 name change, sign replacement will be done under negotiation
    - No separate time and traffic provision
    - 2562-mainly revised pricing, format changes

- Portable Rumble strips:
      - Would like to increase use in flagging operations, most flagging is on paving jobs-maybe engage MAPA about increased use
      - Maintenance is using them

- **Statewide Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee**

- Steve Blaufuss, OM
    - Extraordinary enforcement contract for maintenance-2 year
    - ATMA-couple minor speed issues, turning curves
    - Type III barricades-need to have compliant devices by 2025, so far all devices tested have plastic panels
    - Updated font for message boards
    - Maintenance bulletins-do old ones need to be rescinded or reissued?
    - Flagger TMA-2 have been built and delivery was just taken. Will be installed on our trucks. Will be used for flagging in mobile operations.

- **SWWZSC Industry Liaison Group**

- Reed Liedle, NLCATSSA; Michelle Moser, OTE
    - Came up with 3 focus areas for the group: Work Zone reviews, Speed management, Education and involvement. Will work on goals related to each of these areas.



- Small group did Work Zone reviews in July. 11 projects were reviewed. Overall work zones looked great, but a handful of things were noted that could be improved upon. Group is working on prioritizing and deciding where we can best address for improvement-design, training, field inspection.
    - Speed management is mainly being addressed right now with legislative report task force participation.
      - ❖ Star Tribune article on crashes in WZ from early November-public seems to feel the same way about crashes and speeds. <https://www.startribune.com/drivers-wonder-if-motorists-speeding-in-work-zones-ever-get-caught/600113987/>
      - ❖ Also working on special provision and separate pay item for Electronic Worker Present Speed Limit due to not having MASH compliant sign covering. Will also will make it easier to have the WPSL in only the work area in longer work zones.
      - ❖ Enhanced speed compliance effort is dormant right now, but Automated Speed Enforcement proof of concept project will be

taking place on 94. December data collection and presentation on findings.

- Education and involvement through training initiative and potentially inviting suppliers, other contractors for presentations or discussion
- Go Orange Day 2022, WZ Awareness week-need to rekindle conversations in conjunction with Communications

### **Presentation and Discussion (9:40 – 10:00)**

- **Twin Ports Interchange Work Zone Road Safety Audit**

Ted Ulven, OCIC

Comments:

- Using Zipper Merge branding is good idea.
- Travel time systems should be used more often, past study showed that drivers feel that it is important to them.
- Encourage more use of OH signs. It really helps with lane assignments.
- DMS use for zipper merge helped. People used both lanes more. Use the dynamic system more in the future.

### **Break (10:00-10:15)**

### **External Partner Reports (10:15 – 11:00)**

- **Law Enforcement**

- No updates

- **Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program**

- Kathy Shaefer, LTAP
  - Still providing quite a few classes-very good turn out for those classes.

- **Engineering Consultants**

- Jon Jackels, SRF; Jeff Hilden, TKDA
  - Completed WZ Orientation video

- **Northland Chapter of ATSSA**

- Reed Leidle, Jay Blanchard, Ken Russell
  - National conference/expo in Tampa in February 11-15

- Northland How-To in March 14-16, with Pavement Marking preconference on the 14<sup>th</sup>, March 15 is 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Northland chapter contractors and Citizens for WZ Safety sponsored work site visit on I-94 in October. Talks on worker mental health, safety etc. Legislators are willing to listen and asked specifically what they need to do. Very successful visit.
  
- **Contractors**
  - Matthew Semerad, AGC; Woody Bear, Shafer; Jason Lindula, Egan
    - AGC:
      - AGC Safety committee started back up 2 weeks ago. December meeting for cold weather prep, epoxy etc. January best practices and TTC.
      - Trying to get feedback on WZ speed management from contractors.
      - Working on Safety software buyers guide for reporting.
      - Biligual safety training.
      - Ongoing audits for CHASE.
    - Egan Co-promoting creating a level playing field for bidding, especially in terms of using barriers for safety etc.
  
- **TTC Providers**
  - Matt Krengel, Street Smart Rental; Eric Johnson, Superior Traffic Services; Reed Leidle, Safety Signs; Tim Lewis, Warning Lites of MN
    - Safety signs will give MAPA presentation for reducing speeds in WZ
    - Also at County Engineers safety meeting
  
- **FHWA**
  - No updates
  
- **Counties**
  - Vic Lund, St. Louis County
    - County highway safety committee did not meet this fall.
  
- **Municipal**
  - No updates
  
- **Utilities**
  - No updates

### Discussion (11:00 – 11:15)

- **Speed Management Task Force Update**

Ken Johnson, OTE

Task force has been meeting since May, prior to legislation. In June, legislation was passed and task force was expanded:

**WORK ZONE SPEED MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

(a) The commissioners of transportation and public safety must perform a work zone speed management study. At a minimum, the study must:

- (1) evaluate existing legal authority for strategies, practices, and methods to reduce vehicle speeds and enhance worker safety in work zones, which may include but is not limited to use of traffic control devices, use of barriers, traffic control design modifications, and speed enforcement actions;
- (2) propose a process for contractors operating in a work zone that allows contractors to request modifications to a project's traffic control plan, in order to reduce vehicle speeds or improve worker safety in a work zone;
- (3) make recommendations on changes to current policies and procedures related to work zone safety; and
- (4) make recommendations on changes to state law to improve work zone safety.

(b) By February 1, 2022, the commissioners must complete the study and submit it to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy and finance.

Consultant is helping with feedback and writing report. Feedback was gathered from a huge variety of stakeholders. Initial draft report was just reviewed. Automated Speed Enforcement is definitely a recommendation of the task force.

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

- **Management Teams**

- PCMG & CMG – Mark Panek
  - Brings valuable stuff back to their group from this group.
- OMG – Bob Vasek, Sue Lodahl
  - Sometimes it seems like it takes a while for implementation of things, but they work on struggles with time, space, etc in operations.

- **Transportation Systems Management Operations**
  - TSMO – Jed Falgren
    - ATMA project-After initial training, operators were comfortable. There were some issues during pilot with the trucks as is usual with new equipment. Will be looking for home/operations for that equipment in the spring.
    - Traveler info app is coming up
    - TIM program with State Patrol, Policy, training and data pieces. Tow program is one example. RTMC will be hiring TIM coordinator, funded out of TSMO budget. Reduce the amount of closure time when dealing with incidents.
  
- **Construction**
  - OCIC – Tom Ravn
  - Training/WZSAP – Jackie Brown/Ted Ulven
    - TCS training will be deferred to ATSSA again this winter.
    - Recertification classes will be offered through e-learning.
    - TC Overview will be offered virtually in the winter.
    - Flagger train the trainer will hopefully be provided in person again. Recertification is done online. Leigh Kriewall (retired MnDOT) will be lead trainer.
  - Districts
  
- **Maintenance**
  - OM – Bob Vasek
    - Engaged with many of the WZ Safety activities previously mentioned.
    - Working on WZ Intrusion app reporting issues.
  - Training – Kathy Schaefer-gave LTAP training update above.
  - Districts – Sheila Johnson
    - Nichole Morris-Looking for maintenance volunteers to test glasses with AR and a watch with alert for intrusions
    - Gregory trailer conflicts with boards, some damage to trucks when boards are down. Tongue extension looks like it would fix the issue.
  
- **Communications**
  - Statewide – JP Gillach
    - Heading in to snow and ice with a different approach
    - WZ Awareness week-would like to partner with groups external to MnDOT.
    - World Day of Remembrance for traffic victims is Sunday.

- **State Aid for Local Transportation**
  - Statewide – Marc Briese, Rashmi Brewer, Steven Lam
    - Steve will be representing SALT for WZ Safety in the future
  
- **Worker Safety**
  - Statewide – Todd Haglin, Keith Juliar
    - WZ Intrusion App-training took place in summer with maintenance supervisors, still working on app usage, download process, ownership. Still have option to use e-safe on computer or paper form.
  
- **CAV-X**
  - Cathy Huebsch
    - WZDx project: MnDOT grant will fund mapping tool for WZ events that will feed in to 511 system. Also developing app for maintenance to enter in beginning and end points of WZ and using AVL data from work vehicles so that it can be mapped in 511.
  
- **Traffic Engineering**
  - OTE – Brian Sorenson, Ken Johnson
    - Statewide fatalities continue to increase, 447 preliminary today.
    - TZD webinar series was recorded and available [online](#)
  - Districts – Ron Rauchle, Morris Luke, Jeff Rieder, Scott Meier
    - Jeff-I-90 OH detection system-System functioned well, but compliance was an issue. They tried different messages and then enforcement.
    - E-WPSL may be used in D6 on jobs next summer

## Adjourn (12:00)

Attendees: Adam Berg, Steve Blaufuss, Rashmi Brewer, Jackie Brown, Dave Meslow, Chris Dochniak, Jed Falgren, Girma Feyissa, JP Gillach, Angela Gustafson, Todd Haglin, Troy Hollasch, Cathy Huebsch, Jason Lindula, Jay Blanchard, Jeff Hilden, Ken Johnson, Jon Jackels, Ken Russell, Kevin Kosobud, Steve Lam, Morrie Luke, Matt Kregel, Matt Semerad, Scott Meier, Jeff Morey, Michelle Moser, Mark Panek, Dan Penn, Mike Pretel, Stephanie Raley, Ron Rauchle, Reed Liedle, Sue Lodahl, Jeff Reider, Kathy Schaefer, Brian Sorenson, Jeff Streeter, Ted Ulven, Bob Vasek, Vic Lund, Shiloh Wall