

Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee

Date: April 17, 2020 1:00 – 3:00

Chair: Brian Sorenson, MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering

Location: Skypeland

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 (1:00-1:10)

- **Brian Sorenson – MnDOT State Traffic Engineer**
 - Introductions
 - Previous Action Items:
 - **Portable Rumble Strips – possibly add a pay item and special provision, this will be discussed with the TEO TTC Committee**

Committee Reports (1:10-2:00)

- **Executive Committee**
 - Ken Johnson, OTE
 - Hot topics covered over the past 6 months:
 - Crashworthy requirements and educational efforts (will discuss a little later)
 - Updates to MnDOT's TTC Design Resources
 - Adopt a Highway Program Volunteer Safety Concerns
 - WZ Intrusion Reporting
 - Flagger Law - getting information and requirements out
 - TSMO added to Executive and full Committee
 - WZ Training Plan
- **Traffic Engineering Organization Temporary Traffic Control (TEO TTC) Committee**
 - Co-chairs: Jeff Morey & Ken Johnson, both of OTE
 - Adopt a Highway Traffic Control and Segment Modification

- Also make sure to work with the maintenance group in the district
- IWZ Toolbox and Special Provision Update
- Updated TTC Design Tools
 - See <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/ttcdestools.html>
 - Temporary Overhead Sign Structures Standard Plan
 - Variety of TTC Templates, TTC Typical Details, TTC Long Term Typical Applications

Discussion

• MASH Update and Crashworthy Training Efforts

- Ken Johnson, MnDOT OTE
 - MASH deadlines have passed for work on the State Highway System
 - For WZ devices (including Temporary Signs), NCHRP 350 devices will be allowed to be used until specific dates based on crashworthy categories; however, no NCHRP-350 devices should be acquired after December 31, 2019
 - For permanent sign supports, only MASH devices are allowed. No u-channel at this point has been tested. MnDOT will be using square tube sign supports per the Sign Support Approved Products List.
 - Depends on project, but knee-braced temporary signs may be allowed for projects let up through June 30, 2019.
 - Education efforts:
 - Training for Designers held in January, training for Contractors was held in February, training for MnDOT Construction Inspectors and Maintenance was to be held in March/April. A couple classes held, but stopped due to COVID-19. MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering is working on online modules for:
 - ◆ Overall Crashworthy Requirements
 - ◆ Permanent Sign Plan Reading
 - ◆ Temporary Sign Plan Reading
 - ◆ How to Install the Various Square Tube Systems
 - ◆ End treatments
 - Reed 800 jobs to date - about 50% of the plans seems to have issues related to crashworthiness. There have been dozen of amendments. Cities and counties are still grabbing the MnDOT tools and specifications. ATSSA is trying to do education with the local agencies.
 - Concerns with portable sign stands meeting MASH within the timeframe.

Committee Reports - continued

• Resident Engineers Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee

- Troy Strassburg, District 2 Construction
 - Question about portable rumble strips.
 - Action: OTE will route the information to Troy for residents to review.
 - Link to portable rumble typical application - <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wz-ltta/pdf/ltta14.pdf>

• Time and Traffic Special Provisions Committee

- Chair: Ted Ulven, OCIC
 - Studying when to use flaggers at crossroads
 - Special provisions underwent a large update last year - currently posted. Will start showing up in projects. Since then, OCIC added a new provision to not allow work over live lanes of traffic.

- **Statewide Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee**

- Steve Blaufuss, OM

- WZ Intrusion Recording (eSafe) - paper form and electronic form are getting updated to match - makes it easier to take paper form and then have someone else enter it to the electronic form. Keith Juliar is taking the information to update the forms and, after this is done, the system will be deployed. This is an internal system to be used with Maintenance only at this time.
 - MASH devices - districts are trying to purchase devices and MnDOT does not have an APL. OTE and OM will be working together to create an APL for at least portable sign stands. MnDOT does have a resource to help maintenance to know what is available to purchase - see website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/maintenance/operations.html#wzs>.
 - Next meeting of this committee will likely be middle of May or early June.

- **SWWZSC Industry Liaison Group**

- Reed Liedle, NLCATSSA

- Statewide Comprehensive WZ Training Program. Phase 1 is completed.
 - Jon Jackels gave a summary of Phase 1. Phase 1 came up with recommendations for training that is needed/desired by various audiences.
 - An RFP for Phase II and III is forthcoming shortly - this is primarily to create the training.
 - Steve would like to discuss the RFP. Concerns that the recommendations weren't necessarily agreed to by Maintenance staff - perhaps the District staff.
 - Reed would like a one stop shop for existing training from all the various offices. He is asking for an action item from this committee.
 - Education for designers of TTC. What can be provided and how do we get the word out. There are a lot of consultants out there that don't have much experience with how to put a plan set together. Ted mentions that construction wants to make sure that plans are of good quality. Many consultants don't work on TTC plans every day.
 - MnDOT has tried to make our design tools website easier to use. MnDOT offers a Traffic Control Plan Development course every other year and is looking at making it an annual course.
 - Jon Jackels suggests that a feedback loop be added. So we can hear about possible improvements.
 - Third party work zone reviews
 - Promoting accountability with the quality of work zones. We are seeing projects that appear to have lower quality. The idea is that work zone practitioners be able to provide feedback about work zones that appear to be of low quality.

Presentation & Discussion

- **Autonomous Truck Mounted Attenuator & Maintenance Engagement (~20 minutes)**

- Rashmi Brewer, CAV-X

- See presentation - Autonomous Truck Mounted Attenuator Project - Brewer - 200417.pdf
 - Rashmi had talked about this at the Fall 2019 meeting. This presentation is an update of the status and she would like to get feedback on how best to engage maintenance staff.
 - CAV-X wants to learn from maintenance and other states how this can work most effectively.
 - This could spur other technologies to improve safety.
 - Successfully deployed in Colorado, Missouri, and UK.
 - Duane Hill suggested doing a demo with maintenance supervisors and superintendents. Perhaps plan a work week in each district.
 - Bob Vasek suggested the maintenance supervisors fall meeting and other scheduled events.
 - Duane states that opportunities include traffic control for striping, brushing, patching, sweeping and other moving operations. He also feels that the best coordination with Districts is to ask them to try the

- technology for a week. He really believes that this is a great project.
- Jed Falgren let Rashmi know that she is hitting the correct people with her questions.
 - Bob Vasek is wondering when the ATMA be up and running. It will be at MNROAD, but the schedule is not set right now due to COVID-19. June 8th was the anticipated start date for training. June 17th would have had an opportunity to experience the technology at the closed road testing. Live operations would only occur if there were no failures with the ATMA at the closed road test. Hopefully, June 22nd for live operations at controlled locations. July 6th could have been when it would be deployed almost anywhere. All the above dates are based on successful testing.

External Partner Reports (2:00 - 2:35)

- **Law Enforcement**
 - Major Sean Meagher (State Patrol)
 - Nothing of note from our agency. As always, we appreciate the partnerships with everyone. I hope everyone is well.

- **Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program**
 - Kathy Shaefer, LTAP
 - WZ Flagger Direction Violation Training
 - New information based on the statutory requirements will be included in any upcoming training. The identification of vehicles handout is available of the flagger training website.
 - Flaggers may be required to testify in court if the driver fights the ticket. MnDOT districts are planning on allowing this to be paid time.

- **Engineering Consultants**
 - Jon Jackels, SRF; Jeff Hilden, TKDA
 - Jon Jackels mentioned SRF has been reviewing TTC plans for PE signatures from some counties.
 - Jeff Hilden mentioned that the reduction of traffic has been better for traffic control.
 - Jeff also mentioned that the City of St Paul is realizing that existing traffic counts is not representative of expected traffic. Asking consultants to provide traffic counts from previous years to be more representative.

- **Northland Chapter of ATSSA**
 - Reed Leidle, Jay Blanchard, Ken Russell
 - ATSSA Midyear meeting is in limbo right now.
 - Citizens for Safe Work Zones - Lisa Raduenz
 - ASE legislation update
 - Still have active language under consideration in the legislation. Still an opportunity to pass legislation for MnDOT to conduct a demo of ASE (Automated Speed Enforcement) in some construction projects in the Metro area.
 - PE signed TTC plans. ATSSA is supportive of this. Seeing it being required more frequently. The prime contractors are being caught off guard. There was a MnDOT project that didn't have a TTC plan.
 - Reed and industry would like to see if there are ways to actually slow traffic down. Perhaps selecting a project and doing more of an effort with that specific project with more enforcement.
 - How are we getting the word out from each of the groups that attend?
 - Jon mentioned that Iowa came up with a Work Zone Council - similar to this committee. They then post all minutes to these meetings to the Work Zone Reference Library.
 - The Northland Chapter has been working with North Dakota LTAP. Northland has come up with a way to get the word out about work zone visibility related to worker garments. If someone notices someone

with not high-vis garments, they provide and hand out a card.

- **Contractors**

- Doug Swenson, AGC; Woody Bear, Shafer; Brad Drews, Egan
 - AGC of MN – COVID-19 Recommended Practices (see handout - attached to the Skype meeting)
 - <https://www.agcmn.org/safety/covid-19>
 - <https://workingsafe.agc.org/>
 - <https://workingsafe.agc.org/#learnmore>
 - Highway heavy can do social distancing quite well. The handout has really good information. Constant fluid change - when good suggestions come in, they get added to the above websites.
 - AGC is doing everything they can to keep work going, but safely.
- Tom Ravn has some updates related to COVID-19. ENR has updates often. Only one DOT that shut down their projects originally - Penn DOT. They have since opened up some critical projects. AGC did a survey of their members - about 40% have laid off some workers.
 - Northern districts don't have much work yet - still frost.
 - A lot of work in Metro going on. Tom made it to 6 projects today. Using a lot of barrier and many contractors have tight safety plans.
 - Some employees are getting sick on the job. Some crews have been sent home for isolation. Some producers are concerned about inspectors coming in related to COVID-19 issues.
 - Time extensions are being given to projects.
 - Due to the reduced traffic, Metro is able to have much longer lane closures. Allows more work to be done.
- Lisa is wondering about traffic speeds. Brian mentioned that in the 19 days after the first executive order was issued had a large increase in fatalities, over the past couple of weeks that dropped significantly. Some feel that speeds did increase - at those locations where MnDOT was monitoring speeds - one was 2-3 miles per hour faster - another was 2-3 miles per hour slower.

- **TTC Providers**

- Mike Granger, Street Smart Rental; Eric Johnson, Salander Tech; Reed Leidle, Safety Signs; Tim Lewis, Warning Lites of MN

- **FHWA**

- Jason Spilak & Will Stein, FHWA
 - COVID-19 direction from headquarters. Some of the division offices have been directed to kick up information requests to headquarters - to be more consistent in responses. Reach out to the division office, but many requests will be sent to DC.

- **Counties**

- Wayne Sandberg, Washington County; Adam Bruening, Washington County; Vic Lund, St. Louis County
 - Adam Bruening. Tim Parkos has acquired some portable rumbles that will be used on some projects this year. They will let us know how effective they are.

- **Municipal**

- James Koslucher, City of Fridley
 - I don't have a report, but wanted to add relating to Reed's comments that the MN Chapter of the American Public Works Association has been a group that we have been working with to get the word

out on a municipal/utility level. Ken and I have also discussed presenting information at the City Engineer's Association of MN conference, particularly in regard to PE TCP requirements, which merits further coordination.

- **Utilities**

- Dale Anderson, Center Point Energy; David Haedtke, Century Link

MnDOT Internal Partners (2:35-3:00)

- **Management Teams**

- PCMG & CMG – Mark Panek
- OMG – Sue Lodahl
 - No update at this time. Appreciate the update about the ATMA.

- **Construction**

- OCIC – Tom Ravn
- Training/WZSAP – Jackie Brown
 - Traffic Control Supervisor Training Update. Only able to complete 2 of the TCS courses - 81 participants. The final class was cancelled. The majority of the expected attendee's companies had enough TCSs to do the work. The TCS recertification courses - 2 online and 1 in person.
 - 4 flagger train the trainer courses were scheduled. Conducted 2 already and hope to conduct the 2 in May and June.
- Districts – Troy Strassburg
 - Will be an interesting summer for construction.

- **Maintenance**

- OM – Bob Vasek
- Training – Kathy Schaefer
- Districts – Sheila Johnson
 - Nothing additional

- **Communications**

- Statewide – JP Gillach
- Metro – Chris Krueger
 - Nothing additional

- **State Aid for Local Transportation**

- Statewide – Marc Briese
- Districts – Kelvin Howieson
 - Nothing additional

- **Worker Safety**

- Statewide – Todd Haglin and Keith Juliar
- District – Rebecca Albrecht
 - Nothing additional

- **CAV-X**

- Rashmi Brewer
 - Any thoughts on how to engage maintenance during this time? Better to wait for in person or do something online?

- Steve Lund suggested to contact the OMG chair - Todd Stevens.

- **Traffic Engineering**

- OTE – Brian Sorenson, Ken Johnson
 - Hoping to get the State Work Zone Engineer position open for refilling.
- Districts – Ron Rauchle, Morris Luke, Jeff Rieder, Scott Meier
 - Morrie mentioned that the National Work Zone Safety week is next week and wondered if MnDOT is doing anything. Please send suggestions to JP Gillach and Ken. JP is looking for good information to put in for social media.

- **TSMO**

- TSMO - Jed Falgren.
 - MnDOT is trying to get more proactive in implementing Transportation Systems Management Operations.
 - 34 initiatives overall - 6 are related to work zones

Adjourn (3:00)