

Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee Meeting

March 17, 2008 – Fargo, North Dakota – Ramada Plaza Hotel

Attendees:

The attendance roster is listed at the end of these minutes. The list includes guests.

Announcements:

A couple of changes in the membership listing.

- Bill Servatius, from OCIC, has retired from Mn/DOT service since the October 2007 meeting. Craig Mittelstadt will be taking some of Bill’s duties, including field reviews and providing training for temporary traffic control.
- Gary Thompson, former Mn/DOT OCIC Director, is now working for URS, but is continuing his participation with this committee as a representative of the Engineering Consultant Group.
- A moment of silence was taken in memory of Mitch Wiebe, former Mn/DOT WZ Standards Engineer, who lost his battle with cancer on March 14th. Approximately 3 years ago, Mitch had left Mn/DOT to work for Hennepin County.

State Patrol

Major Al Smith

Not Present

Engineering Consultants

Larry McKenzie and Gary Thompson (URS)

- Larry reported that he had recently read that in El Paso Texas, they are attempting “Pass-Thru Financing” on the Spur 601 Project. The \$367M project will be paid back to the contractor on a per car usage basis over time. During this time the contractor is responsible for construction and maintenance of the roadway. More Info: http://www.dot.state.tx.us/news/local_news/el_paso_news/001-2007.htm
- Gary mentioned that the project funding method that Texas is trying has also been used in Finland successfully.

TTC Services - Northland ATSSA

Jay Blanchard (Safety Signs)

- Jay reported that ATSSA has published “Towards Zero Death – A Vision for Safer Roads in America”, which is it’s recommendation for funding the 2009 Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. More Info: <http://www.atssa.com/galleries/default-file/Toward%20Zero%20Deaths%20FINAL.pdf>

National ATSSA Conference & Expo Report

- Several of the SWZSC members attended the ATSSA conference in New Orleans on February, 2008. These included Bernie Arseneau, Jon Jackels, Marv Sohlo, Mark Vizecky, Jay Blanchard, Mike Granger, and John Story. Several topics were mentioned that were covered at the conference including ADA WZ requirements, ITS in WZ, sign retro-reflectivity standards, proposed Federal MUTCD changes, and several new products/materials in the expo portion of the event. More info: <http://www.atssa.com/cs/atssa-2008-traffic-expo> (includes handouts).
- The Opening Session featured Minnesota’s Representative James Oberstar, who gave a great talk about the future funding of our transportation system and how [ATSSA’s](#) “Toward Zero Deaths” recommendation should be addressed by congress.

Contractors

Frank Weiss (Shafer)

Not Present

FHWA

Dave Kopacz

Not Present

Counties

Rick West (Otter Tail)

- Rick reported that the **County Work Zone Safety Enhancement Award** was presented to Dakota County in January at the Annual MCEA Conference. Although the annual number of applications for the award has decreased over the years, Rick stressed that the award must be continued.
- Rick reported that the Minnesota Counties have been increasing their outreach in training opportunities. Over 200 people participated in viewing the webinar broadcast by ATSSA regarding Sign Sheeting Retro-reflectivity. Wayne Sandberg, Wayne Fingalson and others have been traveling statewide presenting Low Cost Safety Improvement courses to local governments.
- Rick also reported that he is resigning from the SWZSC as the County Representative because of time restrictions as he increases his duties with the MCEA Safety Committee.
ACTION ITEM: MCEA will select a new representative for the SWZSC plus an alternate.

Municipal

Gary Shannon (Rochester)

- Gary mentioned that he has noticed an increase in conferences that focus on traffic control during special events and incidents. He supports further training support for incident traffic control at local levels.

LTAP

Jim Grothaus

Not Present

Utilities

vacant position

Not Present

Worker Safety - OMCS

Todd Haglin and Doug Thies (Metro)

- Todd had his first opportunity to attend a SWZSC meeting. He introduced himself and gave a report on his safety career background including working for OSHA. He has been with Mn/DOT for approx 6 months.
- Todd reported that Deb Ledvina conducted a study on Mn/DOT's strengths and needs for improvements in worker safety issues. In response to the study, he is implementing a State Training Plan and has established a **Statewide Safety Committee** across the 5 divisions.
- Doug reported that Metro was heavily involved with providing worker safety at the site of the 35W bridge collapse and construction. Over 117,000 hours have been worked with zero accidents.

Management Teams:

District Engineers

Mike Robinson (D-1)

- Mike reported that he is pleased with the legislature's passing of the gas tax increase and that it should be a start towards the reversal of budget cutbacks that we have been experiencing. He expects that a priority will be on bridge programs and preservation, but that work zone safety should also be reviewed and improvements made as needed.

PCMG

Mark Waisenen

Not Present

CMG

Mark Panek

Not Present

OMG

John Howard

- John reported that there is currently a Bill in both the House and Senate for a change in the **"Move Over"** law which would require traffic to move over for any vehicle on the shoulder with an operating beacon, regardless of color (red, blue or amber). More Info:
<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S2810.0.html&session=ls85> (House Version)

or district policies/standards/specifications. A plan of action should be made by each district to replace deficient equipment within a timeline with special attention made to arrowboards. ACTION ITEM: The Outstate MWZSC will continue to research the issues and seek solutions for the various needs through the appropriate offices & committees statewide. A status report will be provided to the SWZSC.

Training

Ken Nelson

- Ken reported that Kathy Schaefer and himself have provided Field Manual to over two hundred individuals statewide in the previous few months upon request, including many counties, St. Francis Fire Dept., local agencies around Apple Valley, and the MPCA (Sewer Unit of approx 150 people).
- Training needs for refresher courses within Mn/DOT Maintenance was found to be needed through the video meeting conducted by Randy.

Permits

Steven Maack (D-4)

- Steve was able to attend his first SWZSC meeting. He reported that the Statewide Permit Committee will be held March 18-20, and that he will bring some of the SWZSC concerns to that conference. **ACTION ITEM: Steve will report on the actions of the Permit Committee at the next meeting.**
- Steve and Jeff Perkins discussed the previous problems that we have seen with utility work zones, but they feel there has been major improvements in this area. They feel that pro-active work with the companies on training plus diligent enforcement of the field manual will be best handled on the local levels. The withholding of new permits until active projects are “cleaned up” provides strong incentive to conform to standards.
- Steve also reported that he will be presenting information on available Field Manual Training to the utility companies at the Annual Utility Meeting.

Construction – OCIC:

Tom Ravn

Not Present

Special Provisions

Craig Mittelstadt

- Craig reported that as of January 2008, all **pre-cast concrete barrier** shall now be the new standard design (except for a couple of projects started prior), and that all pins shall be in accordance to the standard plate. More Info: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/StdPlateEngl-031903-S8337B.pdf> (plate) More Info: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/const/wzs/pcb_quality_spec.pdf (quality stds.)
- **LED beacons** on vehicles have been further studied by the OCIC through a direct comparison test on their own office vehicles. It was found that the lights performed poorly in direct high-sunlight while the rotators were still visible. It was concluded that while the LED beacons are improving, they are not yet ready to be approved for use on construction or maintenance vehicles.
- **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** No action taken at this time.
TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes: Randy reported that he is spotting more **flagging issues** with construction crews and his maintenance crews comment on the difference in **allowable standards**. Obviously, there is NO difference in the standards, but enforcement may be slack on some projects. **Radio communications** between flaggers is required but not all contractors furnish handheld units and some use truck radios, thereby necessitating the need for a pickup truck next to the flagger. Another issue may be that some of our project engineers and/or inspectors may not be familiar with current flagging standards. **ACTION ITEM:** Bill Servatius and Craig Mittelstadt will investigate whether the special provisions should require the flaggers be equipped with handheld radios.

ACTION ITEM: Bill (Craig) will work with the project engineers and inspectors on refresher courses for flagging operations.

ACTION ITEM: Craig reported that he will watching the usage of radios during flagging operations in the field for any problems. Special Provisions may need changes.

ACTION ITEM: During field reviews, Craig will review flagging operations and reinforce standard compliance when he notices infractions, and will recommend refresher flagging courses where appropriate.

Resident Engineers

Jeff Perkins (D-4) for Steve Kordosky

- o Jeff reported that he has seen success with several new Mn/DOT programs. Innovative Contracting has sped up construction and reduced exposure time to safety issues. The IWZ Seed Program has improved the safety concerns on a project.
- o Jeff has recently utilized a free service provided by OSHA on a construction project. The **OSHA Consultation Review** is provided free, and no fines are issued for any infractions found, but the requesting company/agency must agree to fix any problems found. Todd Haglin said that he could explain the program further to anyone wanting details. Jeff is currently attempting to setup a similar program with the MPCA to review environmental issues.

Field Reviews

Craig Mittelstadt

No Report

Training

Craig Mittelstadt / Leigh Kriewall

- o Craig reported that he has taken over the duties of Bill in providing the WZ Overview course and TTC Supervisor course. Bill will return to provide some assistance and Dave Buss will also be utilized for his expertise during the courses. Over 150 people will be Mn/DOT certified TTC Supervisors statewide following his next set of courses.
- o **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** No action taken at this time.
TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes: Action Item: Bill Servatius (Craig) and Jon Jackels will work with the **e-learning** section to develop additional courses that have been earmarked as good candidates for e-learning. These courses include: Pavement Marking Inspection and Post Mounted Sign Inspection.

ACTION ITEM: Continue to investigate training opportunities with e-learning.

Speakers Bureau

Leigh Kriewall

- o Leigh reported that she has arranged for a Speakers Bureau booth at both the Spring Maintenance Expo and at the TZD Conference in Rochester.
- o **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** No action taken at this time.
TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes: Action Item: Leigh will contact the Mn/DOT retirees group and inquire on their interest in presenting the Speaker Bureau information.

ACTION ITEM: Continue to make contact with the retiree’s group.

Public Affairs – OPA:

Kevin Gutknecht

Not Present

District

Judy Melander Submitted the following report:

- o We have proposed holding a press conference announcing the **2008 Mn/DOT Construction Kickoff** the week of April 7th at Waters Edge. The timing coincides with the National WZ Awareness Week. This is a great opportunity to promote WZ Safety and discuss major Metro District Maintenance work, also.

- **National Work Zone Awareness Week** (NWZAW) will be observed, April 7-11, 2008. The Ninth Annual National Media Event will be observed on: April 8, in Sacramento, California at the California State Capitol. The event will be hosted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The theme for this year's NWZAW is "*Slow for the Cone Zone*". Today's work zone points to tomorrow's improved roadways for smoother rides, better traffic flow and safer travel in your future. Please revisit this site for additional information to follow.
- Here's a link so you can print out the 2008 poster: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/wz_awareness.htm
- The Metro District will be hosting a **Workers Memorial Day** event at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 28th at Waters Edge. This is a partnership event involving AFSCME Union locals 1011 and 2792 and Council 6, the AGC, the Hiway Federal Credit Union and Mn/DOT. Since 1960 - 30 Mn/DOT employees have been killed. This year we will be placing 30 stepping stones leading to our worker memorial commemorative bench, which was placed near the WE pond in 2006, and a special plaque explaining the significance of the stepping stones. Most likely, several other Mn/DOT districts will be hosting commemorative events also.

Traffic Engineering – OTSO: Bernie Arseneau / Sue Groth

Toward Zero Deaths Bernie Arseneau

- Bernie reported on the success of the TZD effort to-date and that the new goal has been set for fewer than 400 fatalities per year by 2010.
- **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:**
 - *TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes:* Action Item: Bernie Arseneau (and DPS) will explore the drafting of a recommendation letter to Mn/DOT and DPS staff for renewing the State Fair presence in the name of "Toward Zero Deaths" and the partnership between the departments.

UPDATE: Bernie reported that the concept of featuring TZD at the State Fair was deemed difficult and doubtful to happen. While this was a great idea for getting the safety message to the public, our current budget restraints will not permit us to do this.

Work Zone & PM Jon Jackels

- **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** Jon reported that the discrepancy between the Special Provisions which allowed up to 30 days for temporary sign stands and the MnMUTCD which only allowed 3 days, has been corrected. **The MnMUTCD will be changed to 30 days.** Signs planned to be in place longer than 30 days should be post mounted from the beginning.
- **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** No action taken at this time.
 - *TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes:* Jon reported that the current **PCMS Guideline** is several years old (Sept 2000) and should be reviewed and updated. He also suggested that the document <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/cms-use-guidelines.pdf> be modified to separate work zone PCMS guidelines from permanent CMS guidelines. One question Jon raised was "what is the definition of Real-time" as used in the current guideline and "do we wish to enforce a Real-time standard"?

ACTION ITEM: A task force was formed to update the PCMS guideline and will develop a workable definition of "real-time" for use with the new guideline and other IWZ systems. . Members are Jon Jackels, Bill Servatius (**Craig**), Larry McKenzie, Jeff Rieder, Marv Sohlo, John Benson, Tim Lewis and Kent Barnard. This will include recommendations to the MN MUTCD Committee to revise the language that PCMS should not substitute for required signs.

ACTION ITEM: Continue to proceed with the issue.

- **ACTION ITEM UPDATE:** See below for progress.
 - **TAKEN from OCT 2007 Minutes:** Jon presented the new **WZ Policy** to the DTE's at the October, 2007, TEO meeting. The WZ Policy stresses the importance of the early involvement of traffic engineering into the project development process. The WZ Policy will address the need for the DTE's to review TTC and take a lead role in it's development. The following points were listed by the committee during discussion:
 - The SWZSC supports the general philosophy that TMP development should remain the responsibility of the road authority. This is true even on design build projects.
 - Need to include State-Aid review in getting the TMP discussion implemented before the final plan review.
 - We should include local agencies in the feed back discussion visits.
 - We need to work with planning to include a checklist for incident management in the scoping and design stages of a project.
 - There is concern by local governments, especially cities, that the new policy is to far reaching and results in possible liability at the local level.

ACTION ITEM: Jon will schedule meetings with district pre-design, design and construction staff to explain the WZ Policy and how it will influence TTC on projects in the future.

UPDATE: The District Feedback Meetings are being scheduled for this summer in 3 of the Districts (Duluth, Rochester and Baxter). These meetings will give us opportunity to explain the WZ Policy to the design, construction and maintenance staff.

ACTION ITEM: Jon will include cities and counties in the training and discussions. Also, information to the League of Minnesota Cities will be investigated.

UPDATE: It is anticipated that local governments will be included in the presentations at the Districts.

ACTION ITEM: A task force was formed to develop recommendations for a workshop for preconstruction planning. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a model process using example projects. The process should include a post construction review. Members of the task force were Jon Jackels, Bill Servatius (**Craig**), Steve Kordosky, Larry McKenzie, John Story and Greg Ous.

UPDATE: No action taken at this time.

ACTION ITEM: Jon should prepare a presentation for the Districts and Locals to familiarize them with the new policy. Perhaps the presentation will be similar to the one given by the WZ Policy Feedback Discussion Team during the feedback meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Following the District Feedback meetings the Team will reevaluate the proper course of action for further training and policy development.

TEO-WZ Standards

Marv Sohlo

No Report

Intelligent WZ

Marv Sohlo

- Marv reported that he gave a workshop presentation at the **National ATSSA Conference** on Minnesota's approach to IWZ systems. He covered our qualification process for IWZ Providers, the IWZ Seed Program for funding new systems and trying to mainstream IWZ into our construction projects. He also covered the **IWZ Toolbox** which is our attempt to standardize terminology, establish warrants for systems and identify anticipated benefits. The IWZ Toolbox is the first of it's kind nationally, but ATSSA will be producing a similar publication and Marv will be working with ATSSA on standardizing terminology and concepts. More info: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/iwz/PlantingSeedMoney.ppt> (ATSSA powerpoint)
- Marv reported that the **IWZ Seeds Program** has funded 3 projects to-date. The first project is in Detroit Lakes on the TH 10 winter closure. The IWZ system installed was a combination of an Excessive Speed Warning System and a Roadway Hazard Warning System. In this case, the

roadway hazard was snow plowing operations in a restricted section of the detour route, and the PCMS warned traffic when a plow was in the vicinity. The same signs also monitored traffic speeds and warned driver when they were entering the curves at a high speed. The second project funded was for D-7 where they are installing a temporary Dynamic Speed Display sign purchased with Seed funds. This DSD sign will be moved to various construction sites during the season. Along with the sign, the district will study speed reductions with a monitoring device purchased for this project. The third project has not been implemented at this time, but is for the Hasting Bridge Project (TH 61 over the Mississippi River). See Mike Engh's report (below) for more info.

District Jeff Rieder
Jeff reported on several projects that the Rochester District has been preparing.

District Mike Engh
Mike reported more details on the **Hastings Bridge IWZ Systems** proposed. The project will provide several systems including camera surveillance for incidents, a Stopped Traffic Warning System, and a Delay Time System. The Delay Time System will be the first deployment of this type of system and will provide motorists with wait times at the bridge so that they can decide to use alternate routes.

ACTION ITEM: Mike will monitor the systems deployed for the Hastings project and report to the SWZSC at a future meeting on the various systems' success.

District Kevin Schmidt Not Present

Guests:

North Dakota Not Present
South Dakota Not Present

Next SWZSC Meeting: Tentatively in October, 2008 at the St. Cloud Mn/DOT Conference Center. A meeting notice will be sent out in the near future. PLEASE contact Marv on possible conflict dates to stay clear of in October **ASAP**.

Refer to the following link for all current Work Zone information, standards, and documents, including the SWZSC information, such as previous meeting minutes and announcements.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/index.html>

Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee Attendance – March 17, 2008

	name:	email:	phone:	present:
Co-CHAIRS:	Mike Robinson (Duluth-Director)	mike.robinson@dot.state.mn.us	218-725-2704	X
	Bernie Arseneau (OTSO-Director)	bernie.arseneau@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7004	X
EXEC. COMM.:	Rick Arnebeck (Division Director)	rick.arnebeck@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4825	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Robert Winter (Division Director)	bob.winter@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4810	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tom Ravn (OCIC-Director)	tom.ravn@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4228	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Steve Lund (Maint-Director)	steven.lund@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3566	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rick Kjonass (SALT - Asst Director)	richard.kjonass@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3802	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinator:	Jon Jackels (Mn/DOT/OTSO/WZ)	jon.jackels@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7377	X
MEMBERS:				
Enforcement:	Major Al Smith (DPS – State Patrol)	al.smith@state.mn.us	651-201-7109	<input type="checkbox"/>
FHWA:	Dave Kopacz (FHWA)	david.kopacz@fhwa.dot.gov	651-291-6126	<input type="checkbox"/>
County:	Rick West (Ottertail County)	rwest@co.ottertmail.mn.us	218-998-8470	X
Municipal:	Gary Shannon (Rochester)	gshannon@ci.rochester.mn.us	507-328-2430	X
TTC Services:	Jay Blanchard (NCATSSA - Safety Signs)	jayblanchard@safetysigns-mn.com	952-469-6700	X
	Ken Russell (NCATSSA - 3D Specialities)	ken@dakotafence.com	701-293-8599	X
	Eric Johnson (Traffic Technologies)	ericj@traffic-technologies.com	612-363-7475	<input type="checkbox"/>
	John Story (Traffic Technologies)	jstory@gmail.com	612-770-9151	X
	Tim Lewis (Highway Technologies)	tim.lewis@hwy-tech.com	612-521-4200	X
	Mike Granger (Street Smart Rental)	mike@streetsmartrental.com	651-653-4648	X
	Gary Clark (NCATSSA - 3M)	gclark@mmm.com	651-592-2062	X
	Fred Snyder (SignCAD)	freds@signcad.com	952-544-9559	<input type="checkbox"/>
LTAP:	Jim Grothaus (LTAP)	jpgrothaus@cts.umn.edu	612-625-8373	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultants:	Larry McKenzie (URS)	larry_mckenzie@URSCorp.com	612-373-6315	X
	Gary Thompson (URS)	gary_thompson@URSCorp.com	612-345-2643	X
AGC:	Frank Weiss (Shafer Contracting)	fweiss@shafercontracting.com	651-257-5019	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction: CMG	Mark Panek (CMG/D6)	mark.panek@dot.state.mn.us	507-446-5903	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speaker Bureau	Leigh Kreiwall (OCIC)	leigh.kreiwall@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4217	X
Special Prov.	Craig Mittelstadt (OCIC)	craig.mittelstadt@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4222	X
Resident Eng	Steve Kordosky (Const/Metro)	steve.kordosky@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4302	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident Eng	Jeff Perkins (Const/D4)	jeff.perkins@dot.state.mn.us	218-846-3628	X
Maintenance:	Curt Gobeli (Maintenance)	curtis.gobeli@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3549	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training	Ken Nelson (Mn/DOT/Maint)	ken.nelson@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3568	X
OMG	John Howard (AME/Metro)	john.howard@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7904	X
Metro MWZSC	Sue Lorentz (Maint/Metro)	sue.lorentz@dot.state.mn.us	651-775-0309	X
Outstate MWZSC	Randy Reznicek (Maint/D3)	randy.reznicek@dot.state.mn.us	320-223-6568	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits	Steven Maack (Permits/D4)	steven.maack@dot.state.mn.us	218-846-7949	X
Public Affairs:	Kevin Gutknecht (OPA)	kevin.gutknecht@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-4264	<input type="checkbox"/>
District	Judy Melander (Comm/Metro)	judy.melander@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7505	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design: PCMG	Mark Waisanen (Design/D4)	mark.waisanen@dot.state.mn.us	218-846-3606	<input type="checkbox"/>
SALT:	Mark Vizecky (Mn/DOT/SALT)	mark.vizecky@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3839	X
District	Douglas Haeder (SALT/D7)	douglas.haeder@dot.state.mn.us	507-304-6105	X
District	Ronald Bumann (SALT/D1)	ronald.bumann@dot.state.mn.us	218-725-2811	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker Safety:	Todd Haglin (OMCS)	todd.haglin@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3079	X
District	Doug Thies (Safety/Metro)	doug.thies@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-5199	X
Traffic Engineering:	Susan Groth (OTSO)	sue.groth@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7010	X
WZ Standards	Marv Sohlo (Mn/DOT/OTSO/WZ)	marv.sohlo@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7380	X
District	Mike Engh (Traffic/Metro)	mike.engh@dot.state.mn.us	651-234-7870	X
District	Kevin Schmidt (Traffic/D3)	kevin.schmidt@dot.state.mn.us	218-828-5771	<input type="checkbox"/>
District	Jeff Rieder (Traffic/D6)	jeffrey.rieder@dot.state.mn.us	507-285-7381	X
GUESTS:				
Mn/DOT Maint	Gabe Guevara (for Curt Gobeli)	gabriel.guevara@dot.state.mn.us	651-366-3556	X
Northstar Safety	Mark Rue	mrue@northstarsafety.com	701-282-2110	X
Plastic Safety	Tim Cox	timcox@plasticsafety.com	216-244-3207	X
Daktronics	Vic Wenner	vwenner@daktronics.com	605-691-4147	X
Wright County	Wayne Fingalson	wayne.fingalson@co.wright.mn.us	763-682-7388	X
Wadena County	Joel Ullring	joel.ullring@co.wadena.mn.us	218-631-7636	X

Attachment:

**Statewide Maintenance WZ Safety Meeting
Video Conference Summary – Feb. 12, 2008**

The following comments were obtained from Mn/DOT maintenance workers and are only brief statements attempting to characterize the concerns. Discussions were active and many comments were not captured. District 6A and Metro were not represented at the video conference.

Primary issue with summary statement:

District : Comments:

Speed Limits – need for Dynamic Speed Display signs and training on WZ speed limits.

- 1A Slow down in work zone, 55 mph workzone, what is the exact process?
- 1B Speed limits – people are oblivious
- 3A Cover other regulatory signs 55 mph workzones
- 3A Speed reduction signs needed
- 3B Check your speed signs are good
- 3B Reduce speed signs
- 6B Trailer radars or ones that hang on trucks
- 7A Reduce speed limits – should become standard practice
- 7A Portable radar unit works good, more needed, only one in district
- Wryk Check your speed signs

TMA’s – need for TL-3 TMA’s and statewide policies for usage on shadow/protection vehicles.

- 1A Crash truck not mandatory to have attenuator
- 1A Crash truck issue: safety comes second, seems not to be the important factor
- 2A 60 mph trailer mounted attenuators
- 3A Crash cushions
- 7A Crash attenuators 60 mph and have brick boards – should be mandatory
- 7A Attenuators need to be updated
- 7A Need more crash cushions for multi-lane

Electronic Boards – Mn/DOT has not upgraded fleet to new standards on electronic boards and may need smaller boards (more flexibility for usage).

- 1A Changeable message boards. Need More
- 1A Boards (message and arrow) do not conform to standards
- 2B Attenuator truck mounted message boards
- 4A Smaller message boards, portables
- 6B Arrow boards – want one that has higher intensity

Safety Training – apparent need for more timely field manual and flagger training (refreshers).

- 1A Appendix “B” Outdated – New Field Manual 6K - Need Classes, too lax on manual
- 1B Many employees not getting the training – temps/new employees are not getting enough flagging training. Mandatory training before going on the road
- 2B Flagging video needs to be shown
- 2B Safety Administrators need to be involved
- 4A New employees and flagging workzone mentors using older employees
- 4A Need classroom training before, want mentor for field training and then mentor flagging
- 4A Not getting trained before going out on the road – new employees
- 6B Flaggers training, try and to have three flaggers per crew for breaks, etc.

TTC Information Needed – suggestions for new layouts and guidance on procedures needed.

- 6B New layout needed for patching operations. Throw and go – don't think is in book. Good for flat areas, need better for hills
- 7A How do you do traffic control in a roundabout? Need to have layout for roundabouts for summer
- 7A Process for covering signs, be clear on layouts

Radios – request for improved communications equipment.

- 2B Outdated two-way radios – do not work, too old - 15 years old
- 2B Would be good to have all people on crew with 2 way radio to keep up with what is going on
- 3A Old walkie-talkies – need upgrade. bulkiness and old
- 4A Radios – three TGS and Flaggers. Communication needs to be updated
- 6B Radio Shack - \$80 to \$120 for small walkie-talkies. Small radios can be attached to shoulder for talking. FSR channel-able to communicate with flagger and crew
- 7A New radios needed. Walkie-talkies are cheap
- 7A Seven radios used – groups of two purchased with chargers, Cheap price
- 8A Radios – 800 MHz –size of radios will be important.
- 8A Try to find better microphone for operators to talk through

Winter Jackets – request for winter protective clothing.

- 2A Reflective jackets for winter
- 6B Jackets for winter ANSI certified - \$50 jackets – could Mn/DOT chip in \$30 to purchase jackets Safety technology – they bought 47 of the bomber type – order at least one size larger
- 8A Jackets sold through Highway Technologies

2 Roll-Up Sign Issues – portable sign stands have structural problem and rollup sign sheeting flexibility problem in cold weather.

- 1B Wind master signs – plastic – breaking, Not standing up to wind, hard to roll up
- 2A New signs – rubber straps breaking
- 2A Signs don't roll up in winter – recent purchases – don't withstand the wind
- 2B New signs – material too thick, pockets breakdown. Would like more like old style, thinner and lighter pack. Wind Master signs not working
- 3A New Wind Master signs have trouble in cold weather
- 4A Same issues with the signs rolling up. Newer roll ups – not good for use in the cold
- 6B Roll ups not user friendly – fiberglass is thicker and is hard to release them
- 7A New signs very poor quality. Rollup signs were snapping plastic cross bracing in wind. Second batch ordered were lesser quality

Misc. Equipment Issues – (as noted)

- 1B New message boards – cold weather affecting – can't keep inside, no room
- 2A Dual strobes – instead of plug in lighter
- 6B Cone setting still a problem
- 8A Trucks idling – shut down after 15 minutes. Mankato had truck shut off during accident

Extra Enforcement – Driver Education – (as noted)

- 1B Public service announcements – could use more
- 3A Trade time spent on Safe and Sober program with Patrol and have them sit or pass through workzones as much as possible
- 3B Illinois and other states have a message: "Kill a construction worker; spend up to 15 years in jail"
- 3B Try to find more troopers in area. How to retain funding, find way to finance troopers
- 6B Headlights
- 6B Move over for stopped emergency vehicles
- 7A Distracted drivers
- 7A Fire departments, emergency crews need Mn/DOT traffic control when on road. We need more help...Not enough staff
- 7A Problem with diverse ethnic group of drivers – don't seem to understand signs