

# *MnDOT Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee Meeting Minutes*

*October 15, 2012 - - - MnDOT Training & Conference Center, Rm 4, 1900 W Co Rd I, Shoreview, MN  
- Meeting: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm -*

## *Attendees*

The attendance roster is listed at the end of these minutes. The list includes members, people substituting for members, and guests.

## *Welcome and Introductions*

Sue Groth (MnDOT Office of Traffic, Safety & Technology, OTST) welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.

Each participant introduced themselves.

## *Committee Reports*

### *Statewide Work Zone Executive Committee – Sue Groth*

Sue Groth updated the group on the activities of the Executive Committee. They had received a challenge from the former Commissioner about making sure that work zones are safe. There had been concerns raised about worker safety and that some work zones may have appeared to be “sloppy”.

Based on this, the Executive Committee wanted to understand how closely MnDOT offices are following the [MnDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy](#). The districts each answered a survey distributed by Bob Vasek of the Office of Maintenance and the functional advisors to the SWWZSC assessed the responses. Some improvement areas were identified and these will be reported later in the meeting.

Sue then covered some legislative issues. The Executive Committee would like to know what legislative efforts could help improve safety.

Sue reiterated that if anyone has suggestions to improve work zone safety, to please make sure that the Executive Committee (and the Committee Coordinator - Ken Johnson of OTST) is aware.

### **Round Robin: *Zipper Merge – What is everybody seeing?***

A round robin was held amongst the participants to assess their impressions of the Zipper Merge over the past year.

- Members of the TEO TTC Committee see that there may still be some confusion with the existing layout for the Zipper Merge and will investigate possible changes to the layout.
- OCIC staff feel that the application and the signs that are placed are still somewhat inconsistent. Craig Mittelstadt in particular feels that the Active Zipper Merge system is more effective than the Passive Zipper Merge layout; however, the Active Zipper Merge is an Intelligent Work Zone system and thus costs more than the Passive Zipper Merge and districts are trying to save money.
- A suggestion was made to keep the education effort going.
- Metro Maintenance has implemented 4 this past season and will continue to deploy it.
- Tim Lewis of Highway Technologies agrees with Craig Mittelstadt that the passive set ups don't seem to be as effective.

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- Metro Construction started using Active systems and then went to Passive later. Tiffany Dagon of Metro Traffic feels that the Passive systems are effective.
- Patrol suggested the use of a different message on the sign. USE ZIPPER MERGE AHEAD or LANE CLOSED USE ZIPPER MERGE AHEAD. Patrol also suggested that drivers may not be aware of when to Zipper and when not to. Early merge when fast and Zipper when slow - this may confuse some people.

## ***Presentation: Identifying Issues Related to Deployment of Automatic Speed Enforcement in Minnesota***

Frank Douma, Research Fellow and Associate Director, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, gave this presentation. The presentation *ASE WZ Safety Committee Oct 2012.pdf* can be found at the following link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzscommittees.html>

- The summary of this research indicates that there is public support for the use of Automated Speed Enforcement, particularly with School Zones and Work Zones. There is concern about who manages the program - not as much support if a private agency does the bulk of the work.
- A question was asked if a demo project could be done with sending out only warning letters.
  - It could be that some legislative language would still need to be passed to do this.
- There was a state senator on the advisory committee but legislative support seems limited.

## ***Work Zone Safety and Mobility Process Feedback Discussion Team – Ted Ulven***

MnDOT's Work Zone Safety and Mobility Process requires feedback meetings with each of the districts on a timely basis. A feedback discussion team has met with 4 districts this fall. Ted Ulven updated the group on some of the issues found in this go around, but the full report is available on the website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzreports.html>

Intrusions were brought up and Patrol was asked if a driver can be cited for an intrusion. The answer is definitely yes if a law enforcement officer sees it, but more ambiguous if not seen by a law enforcement officer. It may be difficult to get all the correct information, and it's up to the city or county attorney to determine if a driver will be prosecuted.

Another issue raised during the feedback reviews was regarding traffic control for alternative bid projects (concrete vs. bituminous). These can have much different impacts to the travelling public and there is a question as to whether that is considered in the cost of the project alternatives. OCIC is aware of this issue and is looking into it.

## ***Traffic Engineering Organization Temporary Traffic Control (TEO TTC) Committee – Chair: Ted Ulven***

Ted Ulven (OTST) let the group know that the TEO TTC has set up task forces for specific initiatives and the following is the status of some of the major ones:

- TPAR Guidance
  - Development is continuing on a document to give design guidance to Project Managers regarding what to consider during project development in order to accommodate pedestrians with disabilities.
- Work Zone Crash Reporting - Data and Methods

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- A group has been formed looking into how to better notify appropriate personnel about crashes in work zones. This needs to include intrusions, which could be serious if workers happen to be at that location. This group is determining if there is a way to pull information from Patrol resources.
- Another task force has been created to look at the methodology of reporting serious crashes in work zones. Who is responsible for what. The group has not yet met, but will meet over the winter.
- Temporary Traffic Control Training
  - This task force has met once about determining the appropriate level of training of any personnel involved in traffic control.

Ted also let the group know that Traffic Control Plan Development Training will be available in January 2013. It will be a pilot training to which both experienced and inexperienced designers will be invited.

Chapter 8 of the Traffic Engineering Manual will start soon and the goal is to publish in 2013.

In addition, Ted has been working with National ATSSA through the FHWA work zone safety grant to bring Urban Work Zone Training to the state later this year or early next.

### ***Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee – Co-chairs: Trudy Kordosky and Craig Mittelstadt***

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Craig Mittelstadt (OCIC) let the group know that a new concern is that construction is having challenges with situations where they have detours set up, but access is allowed to local traffic. Many drivers have been blatantly ignoring the detour. MnDOT has had some success in using extraordinary enforcement to enforce detours. This is a big issue with business access. A suggestion was made that the length of the detour be placed on signing to let people know how long the detour route is. This could be a concern for longer detours as it may discourage drivers from taking the detour.

### ***Special Provisions Annual Update Committee – Chair: Craig Mittelstadt***

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Craig Mittelstadt (OCIC) handed out a document “Traffic Control Special Provisions Review Committee” dated October 9, 2012 and reviewed the hand out.

- There is a major rewrite of 1404 being pursued - more specifically to the order. Make it look more like other special provisions. Similar to work D1 has done. District still has the opportunity to change as appropriate.
- Extended use of traffic control. Difficulty in paying for extended use of traffic control. If the contract dates change, there is no way to compensate traffic control providers for this change. A long discussion was held on this and there will be a separate meeting that will look at this issue. Perhaps will bring in an independent facilitator.
- There seems to be some misinterpretation of the use of the list of additional traffic control devices at the end of 1404. These are meant to be used for small quantities of additional devices. Not meant for the use in order to set up additional lane closures.
- The biggest issue with TPAR is how to pay for it in projects. MnDOT had a project this year in which the bids for the TPAR traffic control were 7,000; 35,000; 69,000; and 134,000. Some contractors are walking away from projects with TPAR in it, because if they were to bid it honestly, they don't think that they'd get

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the job. Craig feels that we need to start including some quantities in the plan. When MnDOT first started traffic control, we'd itemize everything. We went away from this once industry knew what was expected. Perhaps this should be done with TPAR. Craig has support from OTST. OTST suggest that designers include TPAR in the TTC plan.

- Quality standards seem to not being followed as well in the field. Craig has been seeing a lot of devices that are unacceptable and marginal over the past year. These standards are in the Field Manual. Craig would like to put this directly into 1404.

### ***Statewide Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee – Co-Chairs: Sue Lorentz & Randy Reznicek***

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Sue Lorentz brought up a few issues related to statewide maintenance traffic control efforts:

- She has been conducting statewide maintenance reviews and she noted in some of her visits that both Districts 1 & 3 conduct internal reviews as well.
- The Office of Maintenance is updating the Maintenance Manual and other offices will be consulted for their input.
- Some district maintenance staff would like to allow the use of mobile TTC beyond the 15 minutes stated in the MN MUTCD. Metro is sometimes doing so, but is documenting it as an engineering judgment on a case by case basis. Sue wonders what the Feds would require as far as supplemental devices beyond the mobile setup.

### ***PERCOM – Chair: Rod Clark***

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Rod Clark was welcomed to the committee. He will bring issues from PERCOM regarding TTC to this committee. They were interested to hear about the proposed upcoming web-based field manual training. He wonders what this will contain vs the LTAP training.

#### ***Presentation: Public Information (PI) as a Traffic Operation (TO) Strategy***

Eric Johnson of Traffic Applications gave a presentation of how social media can be a source of information about construction projects. The presentation *PI as a TO Strategy - Traffic Apps - 121015.pdf* can be found at the following link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzsccommittees.html>

## ***External Partners***

### ***Law Enforcement – Lt. Eric Roeske for Major Jeff Huettl (State Patrol)***

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Lt. Roeske reported:

- Next State Patrol Academy is February 2013 - more troopers coming next year.

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- Fatals up from last year. Significant portion of this increase includes pedestrians and motorcycles. Typical causes include the usual suspects - speed, alcohol, inattention, and lack of seat belt use.
- Lt. Roeske sees a use of social media for the future of temporary traffic control.

### ***Engineering Consultants – John Crawford and/or Gary Thompson (URS)***

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Nothing to report at this time.

### ***Northland Chapter ATSSA – Emily Fisher (ETranstech), Jay Blanchard (Safety Signs), Ken Russell (3D Specialties), Lynn Berg (SignCAD)***

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Ken Russell, Lynn Berg, & Judd Roby reported the following:

- The 2013 ATSSA Northland Chapter How-To is planned for March 2013.
- Perhaps include a brainstorm at the next Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee agenda items we'd like to see at the future How-To.

### ***Contractors – Abby Ferri (AGC), Woody Bear (Shafer), Larry Hanson (Egan)***

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Nothing to add at this time. The new attendees are learning how the committee works.

### ***Temporary Traffic Control Providers – John Story (Traffic Technologies), Mike Granger (Street Smart Rental), & Tim Lewis (Highway Technologies)***

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Tim Lewis had a couple of comments for the group:

- He feels that static signs don't get people's attention like Changeable Message Signs.
- He also recommends solid wide lines for lane shifts.

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## *Federal - Will Stein (FHWA)*

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Will Stein had a couple of comments for the group:

- Participated in Feedback meetings and thought they were very worthwhile
- D4 handled maintenance work zones very well - wondering how to best share knowledge between districts.
- All districts talked about good communication between patrol and MnDOT.

## *County - Wayne Sandberg & Adam Bruening (Wash.Co.)& Wayne Fingalson (Wright County)*

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No comments at this time.

## *Municipal - Jay Koslucher (Fridley)*

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Jay mentioned that he's been hearing about intrusions on local projects as well. This may be something to look more closely into.

## *Education - Kathy Schaefer (LTAP)*

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Kathy reported that she has 4 traffic control classes already scheduled for this spring - 2 in March and 2 in April; but she is accepting requests continually.

## *Utilities - Andrew Balgobin (CenterPoint Energy) & David Haedtke (CenturyLink)*

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Utilities are very interested in any type of training that could be available. They would also be interested in on-demand driver training, such as for CDL, etc. Patrol has someone in the motor carrier unit that may be able to help. They will discuss offline.

**Action:** OTST will discuss with CO Utilities the possibility of the TMP process being discussed in the utility coordination training.

## *MnDOT Internal Partners*

### *Management Teams*

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- *PCMG*                      *Mark Waisanen*
- *CMG*                        *Mark Panek*

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- *OMG* *Sue Lodahl*

## *Maintenance*

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- *OM* *Steve Lund, Bob Vasek*
  - Bob Vasek let the group know:
    - The Changeable Message Sign Manual of Practice has been completed and the online training is currently being worked on.
    - The Maintenance Manual is being updated so be ready to provide input in the near future.
    - There is a research project being developed to look at supplemental devices to improve flagger safety. This will likely include portable rumble strips and other devices that are expected to help get a driver's attention.
- *Training (Maint/Locals)* *Sue Lorentz and/or Kathy Schaefer*
  - Kathy already gave an update earlier.
- *Districts* *Sheila Johnson, Randy Reznicek*

## *Traffic Engineering*

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- *OTST* *Sue Groth, Peter Buchen, Ken Johnson*
- *Districts* *Tom Miles, Jeff Rieder, Jerilyn Swenson, Tiffany Dagon, Mike Engh*
  - Mike Engh mentioned that Metro is letting a Concrete Pavement Rehab job where they are crossing the traffic over to the alignment instead of performing the job under traffic. It is expected to reduce the time of the project and provide greater protection for the workers. The disadvantage with this type of traffic control is that it may limit access to interchanges.
  - Metro is also heading a research project that will look at determining diversion rates caused by work zones as well as determine the capacity of a lane of traffic adjacent to a work zone.

## *Construction*

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- *OCIC* *Tom Ravn, Craig Mittelstadt*
- *Training/Speaker Bur.* *Leigh Kriewall*
  - Demand has been high for the Traffic Control Supervisor course. Will be at least 2 next year.

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- *Resident Engineers*      *Trudy Kordosky*

## *Communications*

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- *Statewide*                      *Kevin Gutknecht*
- *Metro*                              *Kent Barnard*
  - Communications staff was not able to make it.

## *Worker Safety*

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- *Statewide*                      *Todd Haglin*
- *District*                        *Doug Thies*
  - Doug mentioned MnDOT Metro Maintenance's work on the cone setting cage. They are encouraged by what's been created so far.
  - It was also mentioned that there may be a high-vis fabric shortage. This won't impact MnDOT likely, but there may be impacts to industry.

## *State Aid*

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- *SALT*                              *Mark Vizecky*
- *Districts*

**Adjourn – Thanks for making it.**



**Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee – Membership Attendance – October 15, 2012**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>present:</b>	Kathy Schaefer (LTAP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Rotating CHAIRS:</b>		<b>Consultants</b>	
Duane Hill (Duluth - District Engineer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Crawford (URS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sue Groth (OTST - Director)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Thompson (URS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Steve Lund (OM – Director)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Utilities</b>	
Tom Ravn (OCIC – Director)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dale Anderson (CenterPoint Energy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		David Haedtke (CenturyLink)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>		<b>INTERNAL PARTNERS:</b>	
Nick Thompson (Division Director)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Construction:</b>	
Mike Barnes (Division Director)	<input type="checkbox"/>	CMG Mark Panek (D-6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jon Chiglo (Division Director)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training/Spk Bureau Leigh Kriewall (OCIC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rick Kjonaas (SALT - Asst Director)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resident Eng Trudy Kordosky (D-4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>FUNCTIONAL ADVISORS:</b>		<b>Maintenance:</b>	
Ken Johnson (MnDOT OTST)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OMG Sue Lodahl (OM)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Vasek (MnDOT OM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statewide MWZSC Sue Lorentz (OM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Craig Mittelstadt (MnDOT OCIC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PERCOM Rod Clark (Metro)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ted Ulven (MnDOT OTST)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Randy Reznicek (D-3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Vizecky (MnDOT SALT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheila Johnson (Metro)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>EXTERNAL PARTNERS:</b>		<b>Public Affairs/Communications:</b>	
<b>Enforcement</b>		Central Office Kevin Gutknecht (Comm)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Mike Asleson (DPS – State Patrol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	District Kent Bernard (Metro)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Federal Agency</b>		<b>Design:</b>	
Will Stein (FHWA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PCMG Mark Waisanen (D-4)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Counties</b>		<b>State Aid:</b>	
Wayne Sandberg (Washington County)	<input type="checkbox"/>	District Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Bruening (Washington County)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Worker Safety:</b>	
Wayne Fingalson (Wright County)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Office Todd Haglin (Admin)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Municipal</b>		District Doug Thies (Metro)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Koslucher (Fridley)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Traffic Engineering:</b>	
<b>NCATSSA</b>		Central Office Peter Buchen (OTST)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rick Shomion (President)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Tiffany Dagon (Metro)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Blanchard (Past President)	<input type="checkbox"/>	District Mike Engh (Metro)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ken Russell (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Jerilyn Swenson (D-3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lynn Berg (NCATSSA – SignCAD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Jeff Rieder (D-6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Contractors</b>		District Tom Miles (D-6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abby Ferri (AGC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Subs Attending:</b>	
John (Woody) Bear (Shafer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lt. Eric Roeske	
Larry Hanson (Egan)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reed Leidle	
<b>TTC / IWZ Services</b>		<b>Representing:</b>	
Tim Lewis (Highway Technologies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Patrol (Major Jeff Huettl)	
John Story (Traffic Technologies)	<input type="checkbox"/>	NCATSSA (Jay Blanchard)	
Mike Granger (Street Smart Rental)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Guests Attending:</b>	
		Eric Johnson	Traffic Applications
<b>Name:</b>	<b>present:</b>	Scott Rich	Traffic Applications
<b>LTAP</b>		Steve Hrkal	Highway Safety Zone
		David Tody	MnDOT Metro Maintenance
		Andrew Balgobin	CenterPoint Energy
		Reid Golyer	Egan Company
		Mike Granger Jr.	Street Smart Rental
		Steve Anderson	Street Smart Rental
		Frank Douma	University of MN

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*Kevin Kosobud  
Nichole Morris*

*MnDOT OCIC  
University of MN, HumanFIRST*