

# MnDOT Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2014 - - - Saint Cloud Training Center - Granite Grand, 3725 12<sup>th</sup> Street N, St Cloud, MN  
- Meeting: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm -

## Welcome and Introductions

Duane Hill (MnDOT District Engineer - Duluth - D1) welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Each participant introduced themselves. A sign-up sheet was passed around, see roster at the end of these minutes.

## Committee Reports

### Statewide Work Zone Executive Committee – Sue Groth

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Sue Groth summarized the discussion of the last Executive Committee Meeting:

- It was felt that this group is becoming very MnDOT oriented - we want to hear from all partners and engage these partners in the conversation. As we go through this meeting - ask that partners come up with ideas of issues to talk about.
- There was a separate meeting with AGC - why separate from this group. Should it have been led by this group?
- Looking for more engagement from all groups. More dialogue so that it's not just a report from MnDOT.

Tom Ravn reiterated that he gets the feeling that MnDOT comes here and talks at you. It should be more of a discussion. He suggested that this group finds a thing to work on, put a task force together and work on that.

Sue mentioned that the Executive Committee is going to meet more frequently to further the issues brought up that this Committee.

ATSSA would like to meet with MnDOT. Perhaps ATSSA should work with the overall Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee. This Committee has office directors and district traffic, construction and maintenance staff. This is the group that can make things happen.

### Traffic Engineering Organization Temporary Traffic Control (TEO TTC) Committee

– Co-Chairs: Ted Ulven & Ken Johnson

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Ted reported on some of the major activities that the Committee is working on:

- New Field Manual published January 2014
- D7 was suggesting including some additional items into the lump sum of some projects. The Committee discussed and made recommendations to CO Tech Support.
- Continue to promote IWZ
- Involved in AFAD research - relaxed some standards on Field Manual to allow more use of AFADs
- LED enhanced signs - more common. Trying to come up with guidance on their use - if they are overused, then there are problems

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Ken Johnson brought up and demonstrated the Basic Work Zone Safety E-Learning module - also known as the Web-based Field Manual Training.

Ted mentioned that OTST is sponsoring an ATSSA Training Class - Work Zone Traffic Impact Analysis - to be held June 24-25, 2014.

Ken Johnson mentioned that the Statewide Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy requires TMPs of projects, but that some project turn-ins to CO Tech Support listed that a TMP was not needed. It was suggested to the District Traffic Engineers at a previous meeting that even if the TTC was just in the plan and special provisions, then that is a TMP and should be reflected as such in the project submittal letter.

## Presentation: Speed Limits in Work Zones Presentation

Ken Johnson, MnDOT Office of Traffic, Safety & Technology presented the appropriate way to set speed limits in work zones. This presentation, *Speed Limits in WZs - April 2014*, will be available at the following web address: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzcommittees.html>

Resident Engineers Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee – Co-chairs: Trudy Kordosky and Craig Mittelstadt and Traffic Control Special Provisions Annual Update Committee – Chair: Craig Mittelstadt

Craig Mittelstadt notified the group that the Resident Engineers gave feedback to the Annual Update Committee

Trudy Kordosky mentioned that the Resident Engineers group will be meeting in April and that concerns from this meeting can be brought to the RE group by Trudy. Trudy had previously brought up the concern by law enforcement not knowing who is responsible to let troopers know their role. Resident Engineers know now. They will work with Patrol to let them know where to be.

As Trudy mentioned, there is room on the agenda for the RE meeting. Craig created a checklist for field personnel to know what to do for Extraordinary Enforcement. Craig will bring the draft to the RE meeting.

Sue asked the Committee group to give ideas to Trudy for the REs to know:

- Tom Ravn - consistent use of Traffic Control Supervisor on project - proper use of that item.
- Eric Johnson asked how many projects have TCS on them.
  - Ted mentioned that it was used on about 20 projects last year
  - Jeff Rieder- D6 hasn't used it much - about twice in the past few years. Traffic does the time and traffic spec in D6.
  - Dave Mavec- used rarely, but in some projects.
- Craig is seeing more and more use of TCS. Craig is pushing for TCS to be determined per the day. More and more people are taking the course - needed 3 courses this year.
- Reed Liedle mentioned a disconnect - if not a big Metro job, what is the difference between the standard Traffic Control spec vs a Traffic Control Supervisor item. Sounds like TCS item means MnDOT wants one

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available all the time. Layne Otteson of the city of Fridley asked Reed - is there confusion between Traffic Control Spec requirements and what the TCS provides. Reed does think so.

- Craig is pushing for the unit day so that the TCS is only there those days that are necessary.
- Tim Lewis has seen them on simple detour projects - where it may not make sense. More thought needs to be put into TCS spec.
- Trudy says that most Time & Traffic specs are put together by construction.
- Good topic for RE meeting - per Tom's request

**Action - better understanding of the use of Traffic Control Supervisor - Craig Mittelstadt will come up with guideline for the project engineer to know when to use TCS.**

Statewide Maintenance Temporary Traffic Control Committee – Co-Chairs: Sue Lorentz & Randy Reznicek

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Sue Lorentz reported:

- That this Committee has met a couple of times in the past year and that the focus is on maintenance.
- Last meeting included a large discussion on TMAs (Truck or Trailer Mounted Attenuators) - issues that maintenance is having with TMAs and challenges. Dave Tody gave presentation on the challenges and problems with TMAs.
- Last meeting also discussed intrusions.
  - Conflicts between workers and the public - the public sometimes feels that they can go through work zones. There are laws, but Sue Lorentz wonders if there should be a stronger law. Are the penalties strong enough? Call to the state patrol.
- Duane Hill is wondering if law enforcement presence can be used for maintenance projects. In Duluth, they've worked with communicating with Patrol staff to be available.
- Also discussed daily reporting - trying to get documentation for their work zones and notifying 511 appropriately.
- Reed asked if the spec requiring that dispatch is being notified of lane closures in construction projects is being used. Tiffany said yes - they are using this information for CMSs.
- The last meeting also included a discussion of what level of maintenance project should be submitted to 511. There have been some in Maintenance statewide that have been told not to send information in for certain types of projects, but it is unclear which projects this would apply to. It was determined that the Statewide Maintenance Committee will coordinate with RTMC staff (511) to determine that appropriate projects that should be submitted.
  - Tiffany Dagon mentioned some in the public feel that there may be too much information in 511.

**Action item - Statewide Maintenance TTC Committee will work with RTMC to determine the appropriate level of project.**

PERCOM – Rod Clark

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No report today

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## Presentation: Active Work Zone Management

Eric Johnson, uGOvia, showed a presentation on Active Work Zone Management. This presentation, *Active Work Zone Management - April 2014*, is available at the following web address:

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

## Update: Work Zone Related Research Efforts

- Using Smartphone App to Help the Visually Impaired Navigate Work Zones Safely
  - Ken Johnson reported that the study has been completed and the report is available. MnDOT has used portions of the report - primarily the determination of what the audible message should state.
- District 3 AFAD Research
  - Randy Reznicek reported that this study is continuing and the next step is to investigate the possibility of their use in moving operations. What devices can move the AFADs down the road appropriately? They hope to know by winter 2014. Received more money for this research. He reiterated that the overall goal of this study is to determine ways to keep flaggers out of harm's way.
    - Leigh mentioned that she has shown these in her training sessions and contractors have indicated an interest.
- Flagger Conspicuity Research
  - Bob Vasek reported that this research is continuing. The study lead has been working with MnDOT staff to determine appropriate signs and placement to be used in the simulator.
- Work Zone Diversion Rates and Capacity Reduction
  - Tiffany Dagon reported that this study is ongoing.
- Effect of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) on Drivers
  - Ken Johnson explained the intent of the study - that it is to look at what the impact ASE would have on drivers - where do they look after seeing the ASE notification? Will they pay more attention to the workers and work area? Will they pay more attention to the road?
  - Tom Ravn asked if MnDOT would use the results to push for ASE if they were positive on driver behavior. Sue Groth replied that she thought so.
- Using Dedicated Short Range System (Vehicle to Vehicle or V2V tech) for fleet and workers in work zones
  - Bob Vasek brought up this research
  - This would create an interface with a PCMS and wearable device or device within vehicles in a work zone. The PCMS would display notifications of workers and vehicles present.
  - Initially the device would go on the vest of workers
  - Reliable range of devices is 500 meters and absolute range is 1000 meters
  - St. Louis County has volunteered to do the field work
  - It could also sound a warning if a vehicle enters a work zone area

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## External Partners

### Law Enforcement - Major Jeff Huettl (State Patrol)

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- Previous Action: Craig Mittelstadt of MnDOT OCIC will follow up with MnDOT Resident Engineers to make sure that Construction Supervisors give effective directions to Patrol staff used for Extraordinary Enforcement. - Done (see notes under **Resident Engineers Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee**)
- Nothing to report

### Engineering Consultants – John Crawford (Kimley-Horn) and/or Gary Thompson (URS)

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Gary Thompson had nothing to report but asked if there was a subcommittee that Consultants could be involved with.

**Action item: look at our overall committee structures to see if there is an opportunity to include consultants and others.**

### Northland Chapter ATSSA – Rick Shomion, Reed Liedle, Ken Russell, Lynn Berg

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Reed Liedle and Rick Shomion reported:

- Northland Chapter recently conducted the Northland Chapter ATSSA How-To - record 550 people attended
  - pre-workshop training on pavement markings - 200 people attended
- Mike Granger Jr was the Chair of the How-To, Reed will take over for this year.
- Chad Weatherman will be new president and Rick Shomion is handing off to Chad.
- ATSSA has been fortunate for the MnDOT staff to be allowed to participate with the Chapter and nationally.
- Northland is unique because agencies, vendors and contractors are interwoven around the table. In other chapters, they are sometimes seen as adversaries.
- ATSSA members would like to meet with MnDOT leadership on some specific issues - this is good forum for that. Perhaps make a smaller task force.
  - **Action: The SWWZS Executive Committee will discuss ways to discuss ideas between ATSSA members and MnDOT Leadership.**
- Reed mentioned that there may be opportunity to make more effective use of ITS work zone components.
  - Supply is high for stopped traffic ahead systems, sensor trailers, sensor camera trailers, PCMSs, etc.
- A concern was raised about including more items into the Lump Sum for Traffic Control. Should some items not be lump sum. The items that D7 were bringing up as Lump Sum were not big ticket items.

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## Presentation: 2014 ATSSA Expo Report

- Reed Liedle, Safety Signs & Ken Johnson, MnDOT OTST, presented items and discussions of interest from the National ATSSA Expo held in San Antonio, Texas. These presentations, *ATSSA Expo 2014 - Liedle* and *ATSSA Expo 2014 - Johnson*, are available at the following web address:  
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzsccommittees.html>

Contractors –Doug Swenson (AGC), Woody Bear (Shafer), Larry Hanson (Egan)

- Previous Action: The Statewide Work Zone Safety Executive Committee will discuss how the AGC Work Zone Working Group relates to the Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee.
  - Still undecided - **Action: the SWWZS Exec Committee will discuss at the next meeting. Perhaps a SWWZS Liaison Committee?**

## Legislative Update

Doug Swenson (AGC) gave an update as to the legislative efforts of AGC:

- He thanked all that served on the AGC working group
- He felt that this gave the opportunity for the legislators to take a leadership role in the country.
  - Bill included:
    - Change double fines to \$300 when workers are present
    - Minimum flagger direction violation fine to \$300
    - Flagger direction violation could be assessed up to 4 hours later with probable cause
    - Work Zone Safety Account funded with the proceeds of the work zone speed limit violation fines. This account would have provided funds for:
      - Extraordinary Enforcement enhancement
      - Work Zone Safety Public Awareness Campaign
    - Difference with how Workers Present Speed Limit is set
    - Legislative report would have been required regarding how the Work Zone Safety Account funds were expended and a summary of what would be happening with work zone safety
    - No Cell Phone Use, handheld or hands free, when workers are present
  - Senate reduced the bill significantly
    - Lost:
      - Cell phone ban
      - 4 hour time frame for flagging violation
      - Work Zone Safety Account
      - Legislative report
  - Still needs to go to conference committee
    - There is hope that there is some way to get the flagger piece back. Perhaps a flagger is available to testify at the conference committee
  - Leadership has apparently told legislators that no controversial issues should be taken up.
- Doug felt that good ground work was covered with this committee. Larry Hanson would like to make sure that this committee continue - not just for legislation, but for other ideas.
- Tom Ravn thanked AGC for their effort.

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- Sue Groth stated that she felt that there was so much work this year to get the bill to point that we had it prior to the Senate - she suggested that even if they were not to make it this year, that we all work together to bring some of the elements back next legislative session.
- Layne Otteson asked if there was support from the League of MN Cities. They weren't specifically brought in.
- Doug Swenson brought up the *orange cones, no phones* campaign - just because we didn't get the cell phones legislation doesn't mean that a public awareness campaign can't be done

**Action: Future legislative efforts should include (or request support from) the League of MN Cities, APWA MN Chapter, and the organizations representing the County and City Engineers.**

Temporary Traffic Control Providers – Mike Granger (Street Smart Rental), Tim Lewis (Warning Lites), Reed Liedle (Safety Signs) & Eric Johnson (uGOvia)

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- Tim Lewis mentioned at the last meeting that signs are almost only white noise now. Industry has geared up for IWZ and he encouraged more use of IWZ. Tim was also pleased about the work that went into the legislative proposals
- Reed Liedle had a couple of questions - as contractors are asking for ways to slow down traffic.
  - Is there a way to speedily add DSD trailers? Who does the contractor ask for the DSD?
  - Craig said that the request goes through the project engineer - there is a pay item for it. DSD most effective when you move them around.
- SWWZSC message: leadership is really encouraging the use of DSD in projects.
- Metro Traffic is open to adding DSD to TCPs

Federal - Will Stein (FHWA)

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Will conveyed his regrets that he couldn't make it. No report at this time.

County - Wayne Sandberg & Adam Bruening (Wash.Co.)

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Adam Bruening mentioned that he's absorbing really good information. He also reported that about a month and a half ago a Washington County flagger hit. The Flagger was in the hospital for a day and a half. TTC was set up properly, but an elderly lady got confused and hit the flagger. This incident really opened the eyes of management at Wash Co.

He also mentioned that during the last several projects they've been using OxBlue cameras.

Washington County is not tweeting project status at this time.

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## Municipal - Jim Koslucher (Fridley)

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Layne Otteson attended for Jim Koslucher. He mentioned the following:

- Speed limits on local system are a lot lower. The Committee should consider speed limits for the local level.
- When the city of Fridley has utility digs on the streets - MnDOT specs are referenced
- He liked the online field manual training demo and will likely use it.
- CEAM or APWA open for presentations on Traffic Control
- Regarding the legislative activity discussion:
  - He sent an email to the League of MN Cities to find out if the League has a position on the two bills. The League had not taken a position but have attended some hearings.
- He encouraged opportunities to partner - if there are things that the locals should be brought into - CEAM or APWA are the avenues to get information to for distribution. Could also involve the County Safety Committee and the City Safety Committee.

**Action: Executive Committee will discuss appropriate ways for the above groups to partner or otherwise be involved.**

## Education – Kathy Schaefer (LTAP)

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Rick Shomoin reported to Kathy Schaefer:

- Kathy is booking a lot of training sessions for the update to the Field Manual.
- Washington County is asking Kathy to train their Park Staff.
- She also did training for the City of Minneapolis.

## Utilities – Dale Anderson (CenterPoint Energy) & Davie Haedtke (CenturyLink)

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Not able to make it today. No report.

### **Presentation: Helping the Public Navigate Construction Work Zones: Public Input and Feedback**

Donna Koren, MnDOT Customer Relations, gave the above presentation regarding the results of a study. This presentation, *MnDOT Comm - 2013 Public Opinion and Surveys on WZs - April 2014*, will be available at the following web address: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/wzscommittees.html>

Gary Thompson asked what MnDOT is doing with this information. Tiffany Dagon mentioned that MnDOT Metro is placing more trailblazing signing on detours to help drivers. They may also include detour distances. This year there will be a few projects with Travel Time in Metro. Gary is suggesting that the surveys be summarized and shared with the districts sooner rather than later. Good to go out to the contractors, cities and counties.

**Action: the information from this study should be summarized and distributed to internal and external folks as described as above.**

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## MnDOT Internal Partners

Instead of going through each group, a Round Robin was held:

- Todd Haglin mentioned that MnDOT is updating High-Vis Contract this year
- Tiffany Dagon discussed coordination with local projects - in Metro they are going through their Area Engineers. Ultimately like to see one place to put the information - trying to get GIS groups to meet to get their information in the same format and each group can pull data - they've had a good start.
- Sue Groth reported for Kevin Gutknecht about the work zone safety education campaign
  - billboards will be seen in key projects
    - talking about something related to Orange Cones, No Phones
    - May or June expected - safety dollars are being used
  - Workers Memorial Day will be held at Chaska Truck Station
  - April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the construction kick-off
- Mike Barnes stated that this has been a good discussion and thanked those that were involved in the legislative efforts
- Leigh Kriewall reported on the training offered through OCIC
  - 3 Traffic Control Supervisor classes, students consist of contractors and city and counties
  - 1 TCS recertification class which was an online course (first year)
  - Flagger trainer - 2 classes and one coming up, now getting some participants from insurance agencies
  - Rollup of these classes and the Speakers Bureau available in July
- Tom Ravn mentioned that it may be hard to reconcile No Phones, Orange Cones with drivers using technology
- Bob Vasek mentioned that Office of Maintenance is updating their webpage
- Kent Barnard reported that MnDOT Metro is creating calendars for each of the counties for projects that will impact them
- Sheila Johnson stated that MnDOT Metro Maintenance has developed a Lane Closure Form for submission to Metro Dispatch (to update 511) and that this form also acts as minimum documentation for traffic control. Metro PACs are using.

## Adjourn