

# Mn/DOT Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee Meeting

March 14, 2011 - - - Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo ND  
- Meeting: 11:30 pm to 4:30 pm -

Thanks to the Northland Chapter of ATSSA for providing lunch.

## Attendees:

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

## Committee Reports:

- **Traffic Engineering Organization Work Zone Safety Committee (TEO WZSC) - Chair: Marv Sohlo**
  - **MnMUTCD Part 6 and Field Manual** - Progress has been made on Part 6 of the MnMUTCD 2011 rewrites. Significant effort went into updating the long term layouts in the chapter. Major changes were made in the area of Temporary Pedestrian Access Routes based on the 2009 Federal MUTCD, MnDOT's standard of using the 2005 draft of the *Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines*, and feedback received in the TPAR Workshop and Demo. There are some additional minor changes to the text.  
  
The Field Manual has been updated and published for 2011 and is the standard to use in projects. They will be handed out to How-To conference attendees.
  - **Late Merge/Zipper Merge Status** - MnDOT has developed layouts in the updated Field Manual to use for the Zipper Merge. MnDOT will also be conducting a public awareness campaign in conjunction with education efforts to help the public understand that the Zipper Merge should be used in lane closures where congestion is occurring.
  - **TPAR (Temporary Pedestrian Access Routes)** - Also included in the updated Field Manual are layouts and typical devices for TPAR. The layouts include Detour and Bypass configurations and the typical devices pages show dimensions and other parameters to use when setting up a TPAR route.  
  
**Action: OTST will also develop TPAR design guidance to help designers know why and how to implement the ADA into work zones.**
  
- **Work Zone Safety Advisory Committee - Co-chairs: Trudy Kordosky and Craig Mittelstadt**
  - The Chairs sent correspondence through email for input on the subjects listed below. Input received from the group was used in the development of the documents:
    - Business Signing Memo - Input received was used to finalize this document. The document will be placed into MnDOT's Traffic Engineering Manual.
    - Proposed ADA Changes - Input received was included in the development of the updated Field Manual. There are concerns about how to pay for TPAR. Should it be incidental, lump sum, bid items? No resolution yet.
    - 1404 Proposed Changes - see below.
  
- **Special Provisions Annual Update Committee - Chair: Craig Mittelstadt**
  - **Latest Changes to 1404** - Craig provided a handout with the latest changes to MnDOT Special Provisions 1404.
  
- **Metro Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee - Chair: Sue Lorentz**
  - The committee has looked at a variety of subjects over the past year including:
    - Zipper Merge - there is a strong concern about how to implement since many new signs are needed. Sue will handle the training aspect.
    - ADA Training
    - Lighting packages on vehicles
    - NCHRP Test Level 2 and 3 truck mounted attenuators

- PCMS Font Sizes
    - Flooding devices purchased
  - No action or input for these subjects is requested from the Committee at this time.
- **Statewide Maintenance Work Zone Safety Committee - Co-chairs: Randy Reznicek & Ken Nelson**
  - Areas discussed at committee meetings include:
    - Work Zone inspection
    - Shying away from rumbles with moving operations
    - Zipper Merge - expect this to be mostly mobile operations at this time
  - No action or input for these subjects is requested from the State Wide committee at this time.
- **PERCOM - Chair: Ed Barrett**
  - The next PERCOM meeting is scheduled for March 17 & 18. Ed will bring issues raised here to their committee and will bring issues raised from that committee to future State Wide committee meetings.

#### External Partners:

- **Law Enforcement**
  - Major Mike Asleson (State Patrol) was not able to make the meeting.
- **Engineering Consultants**
  - Larry McKenzie had nothing to bring to the committee at this time.
- **Northland Chapter ATSSA**
  - Jay Blanchard (Safety Signs) brought the group up to date on the pavement marking material shortage. There have been shortages of elements that make up pavement markings (such as resin and titanium dioxide) that have cause a shortage of both latex and epoxy.

Jay also wanted to make sure everyone know about the next ATSSA How-To Planning Session (2012) to be held July 25 & 26. **Action: Please send suggestions for ATSSA How-To breakout sessions to any committee members that you know.**
- **Contractors**
  - Frank Weiss (Shafer) was unable to attend. Woody Barret is here for him. No topics were raised to the committee at this time.
- **TTC Services**
  - Nothing additional was raised by the TTC Services representatives.
- **Federal**
  - Will Stein (FHWA) was unable to make it to the meeting; however, Tiffany Dagon of MnDOT Metro discussed the need for Transportation Management Plans (TMP) required by the Federal Final Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility. All state and local governments that receive federal-aid funding are required to comply. MnDOT provided training earlier this year and the FHWA is now requiring TMPs on projects; however, MnDOT is concerned that projects already through design won't have full TMPs. MnDOT met with the FHWA the previous week and it was decided that major projects with 2011 lettings would be submitted to the FHWA to determine what level of documentation would suffice. 2012 projects and beyond will need to have TMPs based on the MnDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy.

OTST (with assistance from the FHWA) intends to conduct additional training sessions for TMPs. Traffic and Design staff will be invited.

- **County**
  - Wayne Sandberg of Washington County let the group know about an effort that the county has tried out using Twitter (and Facebook) to notify drivers about construction project updates. They have signs up in the construction project area with the Twitter symbol and a handle for the specific project. Interested parties can also find information from the cities website. They have generally received positive feedback with the effort. Concerns have been raised by some that the notification signs may not meet the MUTCD; however, the county is comfortable in its engineering judgment.
  
- **Municipal**
  - Jay Koslucher of Fridley was unable to attend.
  
- **Education**
  - Jim Grothaus (LTAP) was unable to attend.
  
- **Utilities**
  - The committee is still interested in finding a representative for Utilities. Let Ken Johnson or Ted Ulven of MnDOT know if you have any suggestions.

#### **Discussion/Presentation (approx. 15 min.) ATSSA Expo Update**

A couple of committee members attended the national conference for ATSSA in Phoenix, AZ in February 2011. Jay Blanchard and Ken Johnson presented highlights of the various sessions they attended. The Powerpoint presentation is available on request - please contact Ken Johnson of MnDOT.

#### **Mn/DOT Internal Partners:**

- **Maintenance**
  - OM Steve Lund
  - Work Zone Inspection Ken Nelson
  - Training (Maint/Locals) Ken Nelson and/or Kathy Schaefer
    - 900 have gone through Field Manual training so far this year. Kathy has been doing a lot of the training and the major modifications have been for the Zipper Merge and TPAR.
    - There has been a request for Zipper Merge training to Maintenance employees. **Action: OTST will develop a presentation/training for this group (and likely others).**
  
- **Traffic Engineering**
  - OTST Ken Johnson
  - Districts Jeff Rieder  
Kevin Schmidt  
Mike Engh
    - There have been a couple of unbonded concrete overlay projects this year.
    - TMPs and their development have been challenging in Metro projects. See above discussion under Federal.
    - Greater MN districts have been benefitting from stimulus dollars, though that has meant more challenges in scheduling projects and finding personnel to design.
    - Some Greater MN districts have been spending a lot of time with planning for flooding detours.

- Active Zipper Merges are being added to many projects. Destination Innovation Funding is available to provide Active Zipper Merges and Stopped Traffic Ahead systems to projects. Work with Craig Mittelstadt on supplemental agreements as necessary.

**Discussion Item:**

**Movable Barrier in Construction Work Zones (Tool in toolbox)**

- It was mentioned to the committee that Movable Barrier is a tool that can be used in the appropriate project.

- **Communications**

- Statewide Kevin Gutknecht
- Metro Kent Barnard
  - Workers Memorial Committee has set Workers Memorial Day as April 28. CO Communications is actively working on trying to schedule Commissioner's visits to each of the Districts.

- **Worker Safety**

- Statewide Todd Haglin
- District Doug Thies
  - A reminder that MnDOT's policy is that all high visibility gear needs to be employer provided. This has raised some issues in that many MnDOT employees want hi-vis jackets instead of a vest over. Softcaps are also being reviewed. Discussions with Worker Safety staff will continue regarding hi-vis jackets and shirts.
  - Motor vehicle/plow crashes doubled this year compared to last - not sure why. There seems to be an increase of crashes overall of vehicles impacted MnDOT vehicles.
    - Perhaps due to distracted driving.
    - Possible research project?
  - A question was raised about lighted vests. Safety staff had looked at it in the past, but at the time they were very costly and they had to be plugged in regularly. No one has asked for them recently.

- **Management Teams**

- DE Mike Robinson
- PCMG Mark Waisanen
- CMG Mark Panek
- OMG John Howard
  - Construction Kick-Off is scheduled for April 6.
  - A request was made for Zipper Merge training, perhaps for Project Engineers. OCIC is sending out information. **Action: OTST will look into possible Zipper Merge training.**

- **State Aid**

- SALT Mark Vizecky
- Districts Vacant
  - Field Manuals have been sent out to the counties.
  - An important aspect to local projects on MnDOT routes is to have 24 hour contact information available. MnDOT districts need to make sure that is understood for local projects.

- **Construction**

- OCIC: Tom Ravn
- Special Provisions Craig Mittelstadt
- Resident Engineers Trudy Kordosky

- Training/Speaker Bur. Leigh Kriewall
  - A previous action item was to clarify procedure with State Patrol of Patrol duties
    - This has been shared with Project Engineers - Patrol wants direction during projects - who is in charge of what.

Another action item was Intelligent Work Zone (IWZ) guidance for the Late Merge and Stopped Traffic Warning Systems

- These are available in the IWZ Toolbox; however, boilerplate special provisions language may be necessary. **Action: OTST will look into the possible development of boilerplate special provisions language for IWZ implementations.**
- Additional discussion items
  - Construction personnel are concerned with a perceived increase in inattentive driving. They also feel that there has been an increase in speeding.
    - A suggestion was made that, instead of a Fines Doubled message a Minimum Amount of fine be listed.
    - A concern was raised that this has been attempted with other initiatives (littering), but didn't seem to make a difference. Regardless, the federal MUTCD currently focuses on the Fines Doubled message.
    - An option discussed that has seemed to make a difference in Illinois is the Photocop Van that is only used in construction projects for speed enforcement. **Action: OTST will look into the Illinois implementation of the Photocop Van for speed enforcement in construction areas.**
  - Work Zone Training - OCIC held the following courses this spring.
    - 2 Traffic Control Overview courses
    - 2 Traffic Control Supervisor courses
    - Inspectors Academy

The Committee honored the upcoming retirees that have served the State of Minnesota by making work zones safer:

- Mike Robinson - MnDOT District 1 (Duluth)
- Marv Sohlo - MnDOT OTST
- John Benson - MnDOT OTST
- John Howard - MnDOT Metro Maintenance
- Ken Nelson - MnDOT Office of Maintenance

**The meeting was then adjourned.**

## Statewide Work Zone Safety Committee – Membership Attendance – Mar 14, 2011

<b>Name:</b>		<b>present:</b>	<b>Name:</b>		<b>present:</b>
<b>Co-CHAIRS:</b>			<b>INTERNAL PARTNERS:</b>		
Mike Robinson (Duluth - Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Construction:</b>		
Sue Groth (OTST - Director)		X	CMG Mark Panek (D-6)		X
			Special Provisions Craig Mittelstadt (OCIC)		X
			Training/Spk Bureau Leigh Kriewall (OCIC)		<input type="checkbox"/>
			Resident Eng Trudy Kordosky (D-4)		X
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>			<b>Maintenance:</b>		
Nick Thompson (Division Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Office Sue Lodahl (OM)		X
Mike Barnes (Division Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	OMG John Howard (Metro)		X
Jon Chiglo (Division Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	Training Ken Nelson (OM)		X
Rick Kjonaas (SALT - Asst Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	Metro MWZSC Sue Lorentz (Metro)		X
Tom Ravn (OCIC – Director)		X	Outstate MWZSC Randy Reznicek (D-3)		X
Steve Lund (OM - Director)		<input type="checkbox"/>	PERCOM Ed Barrett (Metro)		X
			District Sheila Johnson (Metro)		X
<b>EXTERNAL PARTNERS:</b>			<b>Public Affairs:</b>		
<b>Federal Agency</b>			Central Office Kevin Gutknecht (Comm)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Will Stein (FHWA)		<input type="checkbox"/>	District Kent Bernard (Metro)		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Local Agency</b>			<b>Design:</b>		
Wayne Sandberg (Washington County)		X	PCMG Mark Waisanen (D-4)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Bruening (Washington County)		X	<b>State Aid:</b>		
Jim Koslucher (City of Fridley)		<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Office Mark Vizecky (SALT)		X
			District Vacant		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NCATSSA</b>			<b>Worker Safety:</b>		
Lynn Berg (NCATSSA – SignCAD)		X	Central Office Todd Haglin (Safety)		X
Jay Blanchard (NCATSSA - Safety Signs)		X	District Doug Thies (Metro)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary Clark (NCATSSA - 3M)		X			
Emily Fisher (NCATSSA – Etranstech)		X			
Ken Russell (NCATSSA - 3D Specialties)		<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>TTC / IWZ Services</b>			<b>Traffic Engineering:</b>		
Eric Johnson (Traffic Technologies)		X	Central Office Cassandra Isackson (OTST )		<input type="checkbox"/>
Tim Lewis (Highway Technologies)		<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Johnson (OTST)		X
John Story (Traffic Technologies)		<input type="checkbox"/>	TEO WZSC Marv Sohlo (OTST)		X
Mike Granger (Street Smart Rental)		X	WZ Signing John Benson (OTST)		X
			WZ APL Ted Ulven (OTST)		X
			District Tiffany Dagon (Metro)		X
			District Mike Engh (Metro)		X
			District Kevin Schmidt (D-3)		<input type="checkbox"/>
			District Jeff Rieder (D-6)		X
			District Tom Miles (D-6)		X
<b>LTAP</b>			<b>Subs Attending:</b>		
Jim Grothaus (LTAP)		<input type="checkbox"/>	John (Woody) Bear	<b>Representing:</b>	
				Shafer Contracting (Frank Weiss)	
<b>Consultants</b>					
Larry McKenzie (URS)		X			
Gary Thompson (URS)		<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Enforcement</b>					
Major Mike Asleson (DPS – State Patrol)		<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Contractors</b>					
Frank Weiss (Shafer Contracting)		(SUB)			
<b>Utilities</b>					
Vacant		<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Guests Attending:</b>					
Rick Beck BC Engineering					
Mike Granger, Jr. Street Smart Rental					
Wayne Fingalson Wright County					