

Work Zone Safety Task Force Standing Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday November 9 & 10, 2004 – Eastern region

Members in attendance:

Frank Newboles, Les Miller, Marty Weed, Steve Haapala, Bonnie Nau, Terry Berends, Scott Zeller, Kirby Wallace.

Mike Novak and Tony Hernandez could not make it.

11/9/04

Frank opened up the meeting to a general discussion:

There have been 2 fatalities in NW Region involving ADIEM (light weight conc.) impact attenuators. There may be some guidance from HQ Design coming to allow designers to eliminate them from contracts in high speed/high volume locations.

Frank handed out the final draft of the Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines. Each member is asked to review the final draft and have comments to Frank or Marty by the end of November.

There was a discussion about keeping the guidelines updated on a more consistent basis. Nothing definite but it was agreed that regular updates would be better.

The rest of the day was spent going over the book and specifically the new Short Duration Work Zone Traffic Control section.

Terry pointed out that a phrase such as “when traffic will most likely be encountered” is not definable and could be interpreted differently by L & I than by WSDOT crews.

The matrix table on page 45 seems to be confusing to the group. Frank will look into simplifying or deleting it.

11/10/04

Frank opened it up to general discussion for the morning:

- Steve brought up a complaint from a driver in the Olympic region that said a flagger with an orange vest blended in with the traffic safety drums and was hard to see, especially when they were wearing the orange pants. Frank will check with Rex Swartz and see if we could require flaggers in these situations wear another color such as white coveralls.
- Les suggested adding the “whys” to the Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines. Frank said Les was right and that it may be a good idea to add something that would let the users know why the guidelines are necessary.

The rest of the morning was spent going through the original committee List of Issues & priorities:

- 2) Revise Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines Book (M54-44)
Team is working on it. Nearly complete.
- 2) Policy and standards for use of tall channelization devices in work zones

Guidance included in the M54-44 appendix, currently requires a special provision for use in contracts. Frank & Marty will work with Ron Howard to include tall devices in the spec book.

3) WSP traffic control enforcement update

On back burner for now. Plans are to revamp process and Frank is working on updating the guidance and MOU.

4) Surveyor traffic control

Roger Caddell is chair of team looking at current manual guidance. Frank has met with Roger and will be coordinating the effort to combine guidance.

5) Flagger rules update

Complete

6) Traffic delays in work zones

Lengthy discussion took place. This seems to be an ongoing issue with no clear answer. May add a chart & guidance to the Traffic Manual for designers to use as a tool showing different lane configurations and ADT to determine best time of day, expected delays, and length of backups to traffic.

7) NCHRP 350 implementation issues

Complete

8) Litter crew safety.

Frank has met with Ray Willard from HQ Maintenance on issue but has not received much support in establishing traffic control standards. Frank will meet with Chris Christopher & Kevin Dayton to attempt to push the issue for some type of resolution.

- 9) Traffic control specifications
 - Flashing Stop/Slow spec – (COMPLETE). Contractors can propose it if they want, must meet MUTCD standards.
 - Temporary Pavement Markings section 8-23, will be rewritten. Marty to start work on this winter or early spring.
 - TCM/TSC (COMPLETE) has been addressed in new TC specs.
 - Temporary/Portable Signals will be written into Section 8-23. Frank has some examples from different regions and will work on it.
- 10) Approved TC plan discussion
(Complete)
- 11) Region training needs
 - Les will talk with region trainers about the possibility or need to develop a WZ inspector training course.
 - Marty will follow up on getting MCOT training updated to include the new revisions to M54-44.
- 12) New MUTCD updates
 - 2003 MUTCD is on track to be adopted in March of 2005. Not a lot of big changes in respect to traffic control items.
- 13) Policy on oversize load movement through the work zones.
 - Need to work on this. Members should get info and concerns from regions. Frank & Marty will check with motor carrier services, bridge division, and etc. to help revamp policies. Also talk with Tim Erickson about getting all regions together with MCS for a meeting for discussion on permitting process.
- 14) Manual Updates & Issues
(Complete). A discussion took place about how to get design/build contractors to address work zones other than to just meet minimum standards. May need to address in design/build specs.
- 15) Performance measures for work zones...
Item deleted by team
- 16) Effectiveness of Region conducted work zone reviews.
 - All the regions are doing them at some level. Complete except to raise awareness of value, Frank will discuss with Toby on ideas to help get the word out.
- 17) Are work zone safety and traffic control policy, procedures, devices, etc. being integrated into work practices?
 - Combine with item # 23. Scott will check to see if there's an official process to get out the word.
- 18) Identify effective practices or suggest new practice to improve work zone issues. Region plan reviews, etc.
 - Marty will look into this and follow up on ideas on how to continue & improve communications. The Work Zone web site is up to date and may be a good location to help disseminate to each group. Jeff Carpenter also has a web site that may be used; Marty will talk with Jeff about including information on WZ's in his Best Practices webpage.
- 19) Address requirements for other users of the R/W (e.g. utilities, surveyors, etc.)
 - All regions have a utility inspector but they are not involved in all projects. Frank will see what guidelines we should have. Frank will follow up with Tom Swafford about possibly requiring utility companies to follow M54-44.

- 20) Address consistency between maintenance and construction work zones.
Some inconsistencies are O.K. and/or unavoidable. Address issues as they come up.
- 21) Review directive for road closures and speed zone reductions
Frank is working on a new directive this winter and will have a draft at future meetings for team to review.
- 22) Develop a process for maintenance use of new devices and equipment
(Complete) – Device Matrix & New Products bulletins
- 23) Develop work zone distribution list for Regions.
Complete except see # 17. Distribution will be through region WZ specialists.

Next meeting tentative scheduled for **February 22-23 in NW Region**. Bonnie will find a meeting location and reserve conference room, also will provide hotel information near meeting location for group.