

Key Takeaways and Action Items

Location: [Teams Meeting]
Date/time: April 15, 2021, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Subject: Work Zone Council Meeting

Welcome and Introductions Dan Sprengeler and Clayton Burke

- Scott Marler submitted an ATSSA article coming out soon highlighting Iowa DOT Mobility and Safety.
- Dan S & Skylar will also be featured in the same ATSSA newsletter on Smart Arrow Boards.

ACTION: Dan will send articles to Council members when published

Impacts of organizational restructuring – Charlie, Dave, Mitch

- Regardless of how we are organized, commitment to improving work zone safety is not going to change. Just the org chart is changing.
- Operations staying the same just the division are changing.
- Collaboration is key, regardless of changes to the organizational structure.
- WZ Council may need to be reviewed to reflect new structure, will not change the mission but may change on how Charlie Dave and Mitch interact with the council.

Introduction of the Technical Support Engineer – Jim Armstrong

- New Role in Central Office for Jim Armstrong formerly in D5
- Safety and mobility in the business plan and this council will be Jim's new hat to work with everyone on this team

Two lane mobile lane closure standard – Ben, Dan

- D6 needed some help for a 2-lane moving closure and brought this to this council.
- Started with the MN standard and then worked as a larger team with design and field guys to create a special layout for Iowa.
- Maintenance is now using/testing this in the field in 7 maintenance offices.
- As part of this standard there is an 8-ft PDMS on the first truck to warn of the 2-lane closure to increase visibility. But this does not meet MUTCD (suggestion) of 12in letters. So, they are using single panel messages, instead of changing messages. They are using pre-approved & loaded messages.
- More info to come after the testing period. Will be testing it both during daytime and night operation.
- Unclear when/if MVE is going to be asked to join these rolling closures. This is District specific with the local garages, but there is no standard at this point.

ACTION: Need to develop this standard on when MVE should be there for mobile closures and construction projects. Clayton to plan this meeting. Next maintenance task force meeting is next week, Clayton should plan to join, Donna will assist/send over invite.

Future Flagger Training Requirements – Clayton, Dan

- Another initiative to come out of this council was to update and expand the current flagger training.
- They have been looking at how to expand the Iowa training and created a task force with industry and DOT personnel.
- There is a need to include local systems, the group has been working with Keith Knapp, Iowa State LTAP.
- Also looking into a train-the-trainer program, supplemental trainings, and re-training requirements.

ACTION: SRF is under contract to expand the Iowa training outcomes and requirement and specs to include this training.

Work Zone Information Sharing Workshop 2021 - Clayton

- Preparing for December 1 & 2, 2021
- Will be run by the C& M Office, with Melanie as the event organizer.
- Mitch Dillavou suggested getting contractors involved

ACTION: Looking for speakers and will be reaching out soon to the district. Willing to have any of the contractors or consultants present.

Updates from Each Work Zone Council Group

District 1 – Scott Nixon: work zone in I-80 over by Colfax in WB lanes. Traffic shifted to the outside lanes. Last week they had 3 truck roll overs in one area.

- Need to delineate the outside edge.
- Driver stated his lane keeping system on the truck was picking up the scaring from the removed edge line and from the rumble strip and pushed him out to the outer edge.
- Willy had a conversation with the insurance person from TMC trucking in Des Moines. If the edge line (removed) was the detection it should only be a nudge and not “move the wheel” – this should not just pull you into the ditch, but this is still an issue.
- Added channelizers and extra PDMS telling truckers to use the inside lane. Trucks are still using the right lane to access the WIM in this area.
- Are there additional issues with edge line removal and leaving in the rumble strips? Is this a safety issue as people don't want to drive on these so people move off of them?

ACTION: Add this to the uncommon situation white paper being developed by SRF. Dan Sprengeler is the lead.

From chat: How about the jointing line? My car has lane control and seems to pick up joint lines.

*** need to look at trailer curve radius and shoulder width Safety will review.*

*** note for designers – look for rumble strips/call out on plans.*

*** add this to the lessons learned documentation & then we need to get this info back to design/design manual/construction manual*

From chat: MVE maintains a "Memo" manual for maintain previous management decisions on law enforcement actions...Good idea for you too Willy!

Work Zone GO team – Willy

- Crash dashboard for all work zone crashes
- Location/type coding for data elements.

District 2: No topics

District 3:

- D1 issue, they have also had some of these issues with interstate reconstruction. They would like to re-fresh paint more during the construction season.
- It might be good to have a better understanding in construction so they have a better idea of how cars will react to removing painting/not removing enough.
- More info might be needed.
- Dan – advisory on when people should turn the lane control systems off when entering some work zones.

ACTION: This should be monitored. Work with Adam Shell in Traffic Operations: one pager – this is how vehicles pick up our lane markings this is how they do/do not pick up rumble strips etc.

District 4. No update.

District 5. Wayfinding and GPS items

- Detour situation and having issues with vehicles using GPS instead and sending them on routes with issues or not fit for trucks
- Looking into what options we have to change driver options for following GPS vs detour routes.
** this is not an Iowa problem this is a national problem.

ACTION: Will be discussed at the Work Zone Management and Traffic Operations Meeting.

District 6:

- Contract that only allows weeknight closures, but the contractor would like to work at night on the weekends.
- Lane closure on interstate at night for heavy traffic area.
- Looking at crash data, we get more hits with commercial vehicles which are not there on the weekend vs not working to avoid drunk drivers.
- If this is a local issue – can D6 make this decision?
- They would like to allow the contractor to work since this will reduce the amount of time they are on the roadway.
- Cable on US 61 bridge over Mississippi River over to WI.
 - They are having different rules with opening the lane when the contractor is not working. If they have the capacity to leave the lane closure up, you can leave it. If they do not, then they should push the cones back to the shoulder and open up the lane when they are not working.

Work Zone Management and Traffic Operations Updates**Intelligent Work Zones – Tim****Training – Dan**

- Virtual Work Zone Safety Workshops conducted this year with LTAP organizing the virtual platform. It wasn't the same as in person.

- They will be having a de-brief to discuss
- Plan to have in-person training next year

Lane Closure Planning Tool – Willy

- Has been updated, make sure you are turning on/off new layer features (AADT/ Reference posts)
- 7 more sensors active on corridor in D4
- Static lane closure maps are being created, D1, 4, & 6 have maps, D3 and D5 are under development, D2 is scheduled for early May.

Mitigation Team – Dan, Willy, Clayton

- Have been going through the projects list for 2022 and 2023 and identifying TCP candidates. Starting to see some concepts already identifying TCP projects.
- Changes to significant projects – policy update in the next few months.

ACTION: Will have more info next meeting.

Process Review – Dan

- Working through drafts
- Provides a more in-depth review of projects.
- Scheduled a Work Zone CMF workshop with the FHWA Dec 2&3 (right after the info sharing workshop)

ACTION: Dan S would like someone from SRF to join the CMF workshop to provide insight and background.

Central Bureaus – Round Robin

Traffic & Safety, Bridge, Design, TO, C&M, Maintenance, Local Systems, MVE

Work Zone Incident Updates – Clayton & Districts

Maintenance Operation on I-80 in Pottawattamie County. Semi-truck struck the TMA shadow vehicle. Driver of the Semi died in the fire.

Adjourn

Future Meetings:

July 15, 2021

October 21, 2021