



Key Takeaways and Action Items

Location: Teams
Client: Iowa Department of Transportation
Date: July 15, 2021
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Subject: Work Zone Council Meeting

Purpose of Meeting:

HDMT has approved the formation of a Work Zone Council to provide overarching leadership and direction of work zone activities throughout the state. The activities of the Council will promote establishing principles of improving mobility and safety impacts created by work zones, improve communication and coordination of these efforts, and foster innovation and participation by field operations personnel.

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Dan Sprengeler
Clayton Burke

- Many accomplishments addressed all action items complete or in progress.
- A lot accomplished in the 1st quarter; many action items were completed. We want this to be an action-oriented meeting and the items that come up in the meeting are completed.
- Need feedback to keep council relevant and worthwhile.
- Indiana is interested in what Iowa is performing with the WZ council.

Two lane mobile lane closure standard update

Dan Sprengeler
Ben Hucker

- Ben Hucker is leading the group for two lane mobile operations. HMS are using law enforcement successfully; however it is not included in the current layout.

ACTION: Meeting Monday July 19th to discuss next steps. Include in August meeting of the Work Zone Safety Committee.

Future Flagger Training Requirements

Clayton Burke

Identified issues for construction and maintenance that training improvements were needed. Framework completed for TTI, Outcomes established, and next step is working with industry to implement the plan. Waiting for Iowa AGC and Iowa ATSSA chapter response.

- Previously flaggers just needed to watch a short video and then they were able to be on the roadway. Iowa wanted to improve this training.

- Worked on a ‘Train the Trainer’ program; have an outline and plan for outreach.
- Now working with industry to move this forward.
- Iowa AGC and ATSSA reviewing for input.
- A pilot program was already launched, and they received some great feedback on the program. Brad L & Matt – Mount Pleasant RCE Lauren G. Next step is to expand to other districts and expand to other groups surveys, investigations, etc.

Work Zone Data Exchange Update

Received a grant from the FHWA and are working on getting a change order in place with Q-free so they are able to consume the data directly from the ATMS software in the the WZDX. This will include the update to incorporate the Smart Arrow Boards.

Skylar
Knickerbacker

Work Zone Safety Accomplishments Timeline

Timeline is on the WRL. This is a good summary to see where we have been.

Dan Sprengeler

Work Zone Information Sharing & CMF Workshops 2021

- Scheduled for December 1 and 2, 2021. Looking for presenters.
- CMF on December 2 and 3, FHWA is facilitating. Dan putting list together for participation in the workshop.

ACTION: Let Clayton know if you have a presentation idea.

Clayton and
Dan

Autonomous Vehicles in Work Zones

Adam Shell reviewed and put together a white paper on what technology is in new vehicles and how Iowa work zone might impact or interact with those technologies.

ACTION: Post on WRL

Clayton Burke

Interstate Pavement Markings Update

- Incorporating on Interstate projects using grooved in epoxy and contractors are having challenges with the new materials and epoxy with handling and application using contrast markings. District 6 on first major maintenance project without major construction.
- From Ben Hucker: The updated pavement markings have also been applied to I-35/80 between Douglas Ave. and west of Merle Hay Road (including through the newly reconstructed Rider Corner/Urban Loop interchange).
- \$5M per year in safety funds to deploy markings and maintain markings, expected life is 5 years.

Clayton Burke

District Lane Closure Maps

Clayton Burke

Most are complete and on WRL. Good resource and easy to look up section.

ACTION: Still need to post D2 and D3

Planned Lane Closure System Update

Willy Sorenson

- Willy shared some slides.
- Would like to standardize the process for requesting and tracking lane closures.
- 99.9% done with the ConOps (Willy does have some comments for SRF)
- “cascading” information to pass information through rather than re-entering information into multiple systems/programs.
- Currently looking for funding source to build the system.
- Tony L – approvals and overrides will be in the system? Yes, this is in the requirements.
- Charlie P – will the system be smart enough to know if people are entering closures that are not allowed (match the static maps)? Yes that is the point of the system to have the ‘smarts’ to know when closures are allowed and let the user know if they are entering unallowable closures.

Data is only entered once and moves to the next level. Allows for future research purposes. Will also facilitate lane closure coordination and cooperation. Goal is to make the system easier.

Update from Each Work Zone Council Group:

District 1 – Scott Nixon, contraflow at Colfax, met with law enforcement and what they are seeing and have great ideas including eastbound delineation on median cable rail so EB could see the cable and edge. Installed speed trailers at both ends and they are working to slow traffic. Using extra enforcement, 24 hour monitoring on weekends. On day 15 since a crash. Traffic switch next week. More being planned for next year, any improvements are welcome. Kent Nicholson would like to be involved.

Round Robin

District 2 – Jon and Roy – comments from inspectors regarding lights on their trucks. When out alone and is there an ability to have better lighting on the vehicle for these times.

Mitch, met with maintenance garages and this comment comes up a lot that they would like more lights on trucks. They do need a larger review of this for both maintenance and construction vehicles.

ACTION: meeting next week Brad Osborne is leading the lighting committee.

District 3 – Tony – railroad lane closures without permits and DOT not aware of closure.

- May 5th on Ia-127 they put up a closure.

- UP May 24th, June 24th IA26, they are shutting down lanes with no notification and they are setting up closures incorrectly.
- There was a doc from 2021 (Roxanne S put together) to document incidents with the UP RR.
- This is apparently an issue again.
- Maria Hobbs with rail – they do make a point with their rail partners to discuss closures, permits, annually.
- They have both maintenance track workers and contractors to do the work. So it could be either situation that is causing the issue.

ACTION: add this as the 6th type of lane closure in the PLCS, RR Closures.

District 4 – No items

District 5 – Jim Webb – DCE meeting next week looking at conditions of some sign condition, not in good or acceptable condition. Resistance from contractors when inspectors bring this up. Need to do more nighttime evaluation for retroreflectivity. Especially true for shorter term projects. Need to have a quality standard improved. How to hold the contractor accountable.

ATTSA quality guide for reflectivity, handed out at winter training

District 6 – Newman, videotaping zones every two weeks and are noticing missing signs. Periodic videotaping is being started. Share the videos with central staff and use for discussion with contractors. Using go-pro by consultant. VerMac <https://vermac.com/en/products/series/serie/traffic-cameras-sensors/product/work-zone-management-camera-dashcam/65> has product to do this and note issues. Information sharing workshop item. There may be a liability issue here for implementing solutions and retention of videos. Bob: we need to do our business that supports the Iowa DOT mission. We should not worry if these items are “discoverable.” Wes: perhaps what has changed on the WZ focus we were very focused on all items being perfect. Now the focus has changed to operations.

From Cortney: Street Smart Rental has a line item in the TCP/IWZ contract that uses the Vermac video system to provide video drive thru of work zones.

Looking at longer term closures for bridge work with detours.

ACTION: discuss with Ben Hucker for lessons learned.

Work Zone Innovations

Dave Lorenzen, director Marler Moonshot – under 300 fatality effort, step outside of the box to find a solution, how can we affect safety quickly. Open to any suggestions. No holds barred, send to Dave Lorenzen. How can drivers be incentivized to behave better.

Work Zone Management and Traffic Operations Updates

Intelligent Work Zones – 51 projects 25 active IWZ, 27 queue corridors on 17 projects Tim Simodynes

Smart arrow boards implementation – going well, some arrow boards are not in the feed, Skylar is investigating. 114 arrow boards reporting on a regular basis. Most are iCone, Wanco and Solar Tech. Skylar

Training – no update Dan Sprengeler

Lane Closure Planning Tool – static maps fundamental, created by the tool. Cleaning up the data and improving accuracy and usability. Meeting every two weeks, adding 31 sensors statewide active by Christmas. Willy Sorenson

Mitigation Team – 500.18 update for definition of significant projects. Willy will be sending forward next Friday July 23rd. Dan, Willy, Clayton

Process Review – new procedures complete and will be incorporated for future reviews. Dan

Central Office: Round Robin

Traffic & Safety

Bridge

Design

TO

C&M – incident commander is authorized to represent Iowa DOT. Spec changes are being made. Include past training and information Bob Younie

Maintenance

Local Systems

MVE – Chris, working diligently to work on mobile work zones, improved notification would be appreciated.

Work Zone Incident Updates

Clayton and Districts

- Fatal last Sunday in D6 on 151, an 81-year-old driver left the roadway at the bridge and ended up in the creek below.
- I-80 jasper (traffic split) project had many crashes before the 4th of July, but this seems to be improving.
- I-35 by Corporate Woods in Ankeny (traffic split) seems to be doing well.
- Working on better signing to let drivers know they will all end up at the same place once they enter the traffic split. There seems to be some confusion to know if they will be able to exit once they enter the lane split (contra-flow). People have been seen making “strange movements” in the I-35 area since they do not seem to understand where they should be so they are making abrupt lane changes.

ACTION: Jon will connect Dan with MnDOT for cooperative discussion.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

October 21, 2021