



## Key Takeaways

**Location:** Ames Second Floor Admin Conference Room / Teams  
**Client:** Iowa Department of Transportation  
**Date:** July 21, 2022  
**Subject:** Work Zone Council Meeting  
**From:** SRF Consulting

### 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.

### Key Takeaways from the Meeting:

#### MOVITE Work Zone Management Award – Tim S

- Iowa's Comprehensive Work Zone Management Program was awarded MOVITE's Transportation Achievement Award in TSMO.
- Presented with a plaque at the MOVITE Fall Meeting at Omni OKC in Oklahoma City, OK October 11-13, 2022 – no one from Iowa attending yet.

#### Oversized Loads and Work Zone Restrictions – Update – Clayton

- New guidance document on OSOW. Almost every project should have over width restriction on it (DOT is now telling people shoulders are not appropriate for driving on).
- New guideline is posted to the WRL.

#### Narrow Bridge Traffic Control Strategy & Determining TCP – Dan/Clayton

- I-80 narrow bridge was used as a pilot project to include widening the narrow bridge to maintain two lanes to add capacity.
  - Next step is coming up with better tools to make these decisions for narrow bridges in the future (there are quite a few in Iowa).
  - 120 bridges less than 39 feet wide on I-80.
  - Need to better communicate the impacts and strategies for dealing with narrow bridge.

- When looking at lane closures – when you can't close a roadway or lane for more than 24 hours (needed for concrete cure time) there needs to be better direction on how to manage the longer closures needed for narrow bridge mitigation.
  - Add this topic to the next WZC meeting agenda.
- Modeling by Snyder was used to help with crash risk etc. and helped the DOT look at the different options for TTC for this narrow bridge project.
  - Need to explore what is needed to build the tools that can help with these mitigations in the future.
- Topics for consideration include
  - Would a flow chart work here?
  - Is modeling and cost/benefit analysis needed?
  - What is needed. 5-year plan, budgeting for the commission, where the costs might be during the planning phases?
  - If some amount of delay is okay – then how much? Develop a strategy on how we are addressing this question. Need buy in from upper management.

### **New TSMO WZMSL Action Recommendations on the WRL – Tim S**

Posted to TSMO site, linked on the WRL.

### **Update from Each Work Zone Council Group:**

#### **Work Zone Management and Traffic Operations Updates**

##### **Lane Closure System – Willy**

- HNTB under contract to develop lane closure tool software.
- Scheduling workshop meetings to begin design. First meeting/workshop will be on existing closure processes/workflows. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- Once the future funding needs are known Dave Lorenzen would like to see these so they can be put into the future FY plans.

##### **Lane Closure Planning Tool – Willy**

- Update made to system functionality – Willy did a demo
- Bad data quality has been updated – Skylar has added modification factors to bad data to make it “usable” data. A note will show on the page if you are using modified data.

##### **Mitigation Team – Dan/Willy/Clayton**

- Future projects review meeting coming up.
- FY23 done and submitted to the FHWA.

##### **Process Review – Dan**

- GIS dashboard tool to use during work zone reviews and analyze Key Performance Indicators is complete.

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- Scheduling an introduction meeting for the team and how to use the dashboards.
- Also reaching out to field staff for input with a field interview.
- FHWA Case Study to be published soon – final draft is complete.

### **Maintenance Work Zone Safety Task Force – Brad F & Jason F**

- Moving this maintenance task force meeting to quarterly.
- Supervisor pickup trucks getting new light bars, updating chevrons on work trucks, statewide TTC training is helping with uniformity in training.
- District training is identifying need for revisions to TC layouts, will work with Dan and Work Zone Safety Committee.

### **Training – Dan**

- No update

### **Intelligent Work Zones – Cortney & Tim S**

- Currently working through issues with the queue corridors with Q-free. There are currently 5 queue detection systems being run in semi-automated mode while they troubleshoot the system.
- These issues are not affecting cameras, or the variable speed limit systems.
- Any late season deployments are being reviewed for alternate software options from SSR before deployment.
- Ragbrai 2022 devices being deployed.

### **Round Robin**

Central Office:

**TAS:** No update

#### **Bridge:**

- Jim Nelson – After action review for IA 17 bridge and UPRR was held in June. After action went well for getting some insight into working with the RR. The project had to deal with a rail yard interaction with the work area. Good after-action review notes are available.
- Ed Engle in RR – one issue was continuous pour, and this was not able to happen due to trains coming through during the pour time. We need to be aware of these type of items in design when dealing with RR. Also, they used plexiglass forms under the decks so they could still do inspection during construction without stripping the forms. “Stay in place transparent forms” allowed during construction in rare cases; but are a useful tool.

**Design:** No update

#### **TO:**

- D1 & Ted Shipley putting together an after-action review for an extended closure in Poweshiek County due to a vehicle fire.
- Gary Kretlow has new maps for tow operations for D1, and they will be sending those

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out soon.

- Statewide “work zone” starting on Sunday for RAGBRAI – should go well.
- TMC staffing changes take place August 1<sup>st</sup> most operators will remain the same.

#### **C&M:**

- Clayton is changing positions and going to D2, C&M will be hiring new work zone operations engineer.

#### **Maintenance:**

- Maintenance to use 42inch channelizers on four lane highways for lane closures. Agenda topic for Work Zone Safety Committee on August 10 to determine if these should also be required for construction.

**Local:** No update

#### **MVE:**

- Tom Bruun is new MVE chief and will be posting the 2<sup>nd</sup> in line position soon.
- MVE will be putting themselves on WAZE going forward to assist with slowing people down. Starting August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **District Updates:**

- 1 Permanent crash cushions on I-235 in Des Moines React 350 wide, “reset themselves” but, still need to be inspected. Currently testing the counters in the crash cushions and using cameras to verify the accuracy of the counter.

If you have a crash cushion in your area that gets hit often reach out to Ben H. They are looking for additional testing sites.

2 No update

3 No update

4 No update

5 No update

- 6 City of Dubuque adding TIM on state routes. Also adding cameras in town and working with central staff to finalize the ITS project. 50 TIM plans added in Dubuque County.

#### **Work Zone Innovations**

- May need to keep a running list of little items that are going on.
- Newman: 4 lanes to 2 lane transition – is there a better way to better identify the merge? Clayton, Willy, Dan and Newman to set up a meeting to review.

- Current research projects – make people more aware of their following distance. Adding additional signing on following distance etc. **\*\* add to WZMTO/WZC meeting agenda to promote this more**

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Prepare recommendation for Narrow Bridge Traffic Control Strategy & Determining TCP for July 22, 2022, WZMTO Committee and October 20, 2022 Council meeting.	Dan/Clayton
Add list of work zone innovations to WRL	SRF
Add current work zone research to WRL	SRF
Review and improve identification of merge for 4 lanes to 2 lane transition	Clayton/Willy/Dan/Newman

### Future Meetings

October 20, 2022  
January 15, 2023