



Record of Meeting

SRF No. 12204

Location: SKYPE
Client: Iowa Department of Transportation
Date: April 16, 2020
Subject: Work Zone Council Meeting
Attendees: Jim Armstrong, Clayton Burke, Tim Crouch, Courtney Falero, Jim Nelson, Dave Lorenzen, Brad Fleming, Roy Gelhaus, Tony Gustafson, Jon Jackels, Brad Lauderman, Andrew Lewis, Wes Musgrove, Jim Nelson, Scott Nixon, Charlie Purcell, Scott Schram, Roxanne Seward, Tim Simodynes, Willy Sorenson, Dan Sprengeler, Tom Bruun, Diana Upton, Kaleb Wohlgemuth, Steve Gent, Donna Matulac, Mike Kennerly, Kent Nicholson, Scott Nixon, Brenda Boell, Gary Kretlow, Johnny Shanahan

From: SRF Consulting Inc.

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.

Summary of Meeting:

Welcome and Introductions - Charlie Purcell

Would like to hear about opening up restrictions on lane closures due to reduced traffic volumes and take advantage of this opportunity. AASHTO Chief Engineers “We don’t want to let a good pandemic go to waste.” Let’s get some road work done.

Thanks for joining online – this Council is relatively new and we are trying to consolidate and get all the right people together to share ideas and leverage expertise around the DOT.

New Business:

Work Zone Performance Measures – Wes Musgrove and Tim Simodynes

Iowa State is working on this. There is a great deal of data, issue is knowing dates for projects. Not much to share at this time. Need to improve tracking lane closures.

Determining the standard delay is one issue we are working on to establish a base line for Iowa performance measures. – Wes

The recently completed TSMO Performance Measures final report by Peter Rafferty for the DOT identifies 5 subject areas for performance measure standards:

- Crashes (automated tracking, Crash Severity)
- Non-Recurring Delay
- Roadway Clearance Time
- Winter Operations Time to Normal
- Emergency Management (after action reviews, etc)

The TSMO Work Zone Management Service Layer (WZMSL) committee is meeting later today and is working on aligning these general TSMO performance measures with this service layer.

Speed Feedback Trailer Pilot in District 5 - Brad Lauderman

Working on ramping this up, DOT is purchasing 3 standalone signs (\$2,300) (not trailer) to add to existing 2 trailers (\$7,000) inventory. Steve Gent initiated in January to list items to track with this equipment.

Brad has spreadsheet to track data, location date, maintenance work, TC series, # lanes, start and end times. Using this form of tracking allows us to sort by TC usage, work type, etc. They are currently looking for comments from those that will be using the online form.

The intent of the tracking is to determine how much additional time and exposure is required for deployment and data input, but having this data is valuable.

Will be starting end of April/1st of May. Standalone units are currently tied up in purchasing.

Discussion from comment section online:

- Can someone confirm whether or not the new speed feedback trailers will have modems or location tracking? - Tim S
- The three standalone signs being purchased do not have cell modems. The specs did require the ability to collect data. The trailers are the trailers the district currently has. – Tim C
- We currently own three versions of Wanco trailers, and the two trailers that were purchased in 2019 have been plagued with problems with the data collection and remote access (modems). I just want to make sure we review the specs if we want to add remote tracking. – Tim S
- When we put the specifications together there wasn't any discussion or need to remotely gather the data. The intent was to use the signs for short term work zones, less than 3 days in

length. We are using a portable temporary sign stand. These were intended for the pilot, if it goes forward, there should be are using a portable temporary sign stand. We have requested additional information from the bidders so we can determine if they meet the specifications. –
Tim C

ACTION report at next council meeting.

Revisions to TTC Specifications - Clayton Burke

Incorporating the last of the changes from C&M.

DOT has integrated outside items into 2825 specs and these changes have been submitted to the Spec Committee for the May/April Spec Committee update.

These changes will be on the Spec Comm website the first week of May if anyone wants to review and comment.

Educational Materials for Use of LCPT - Willy Sorenson

TAS is just beginning the process of putting these items together. Items being considered during development:

- Wizard – Web team involved
- YouTube Videos
- User Guides
- Trying to better understand what LCPT users want as the TAS Office is too close to the LCPT to provide this input.
- LCPT is not a calculator, interpretation using engineering judgment is needed.
- Written Policy – part of TSMO performance measures. How much delay is acceptable?

Charlie HDMT – contractors are concerned that DOT is inconsistent. Engineering judgement is all over the map, guidance in needed. The group should ask HDMT for assistance with performance measures.

Focus for training should be on how to interpolate the data in the tool and how to actually implement the information consistently across Iowa.

ACTION work on guidance or policy for the LCPT.

Update on Using the LCPT With the Currently Lower Traffic Volumes

TAS has been receiving requests to review lane closure restrictions based on new volumes due to COVID-19. Clayton is reviewing approximately one request a day, they are finding that most projects can eliminate all time restrictions and are moving to daytime work, with some exceptions on evening rush hours and Fridays.

DOT is looking for opportunities to expand working hours and not just reacting to contractor requests. Clayton is leading this effort with assistance from Skylar at InTrans providing the data on the lowered traffic volumes and IT has created a new internal tool to lower the traffic volumes in the LCPT.

The DOT is not seeking any additional credits from contractor since this is a virus-related effort. Normally we would incentivize this additional work hours, but we are not doing that at this time. If projects would like to increase working hours in your area, please reach out to TAS in Central Office for them to review the request and provide guidance.

Passing on Shoulder during Striping Operations - Dan Sprengeler

Painting operations TC-233 direct vehicles onto the shoulder on 2-lane-2-way roads, based on history of straddling the centerlines. Current trucks stripe in lane both centerline and edge line concurrently. State Patrol stopped this work based on vehicles passing on the shoulder. Paint crew did not direct drivers onto the shoulder, drivers choose to pass on the right. Patrol did not discuss with crew.

ACTION Steve Gent will review the current Iowa code and work zone policy to make sure they are in agreement and get information back to the committee and educate officers. If an update is needed to the standards it should include shoulder width and reduced speeds.

Lane Closure Permitting System/App - Renewing the Effort - Willy Sorenson

Inform council that Central Office would like to renew this effort.

Only way to move performance measures forward is to have better data on where work zones (lane closures) start and stop. The current process has the contractor calling the RCE and requesting a lane closure 10 days in advance. It then is put into the system for approval or denial, but we never actually know if this lane closure happened or if this was put off/rescheduled. It is hard to manage our roadways and do research when we don't know what is out there.

This effort is the development of an app for use on smart phone/tablet/desktop which would:

- Request a new lane closure permit or allow access to permits already submitted/approved
- Document when lane closures are in effect or if they were rescheduled
- Documents duration of closures
- Document exact locations of closures
- Interface with ATMS and 511 to better inform travelers of closures in real time
- Integrate with use of the smart arrow board (SAB)
- Allow for quicker notification to public of emergency closures for incident management if used by MVE/EMS

TAS is currently seeking funding for this task. Q3 (new ATMS) may have a version of this. Mike Jackson was the champion on this effort before he left. The DOT would like to use an outside services champion via SRF on the master contract to move this forward.

Update from Each Work Zone Council Group:

Intelligent Work Zones - Tim Simodynes

72 TCP for 2020

42 IWZ deployments

Currently we have 22 active deployments (several of these are carry over from 2019) and 17 utilizing APS logic (queue detection)

New items for 2020:

Houston Radar use in several locations (we typically use Wavetronix sensors)

Pull off detection in District 1 (1AM) to monitor emergency pull off areas.

Training - Dan Sprengeler

Held one training session in Ames and then the rest were cancelled due to covid-19.

Charlie – any thought of an alternate delivery or resources in lieu of the training.

Keith Knapp is working on a training review and re-vamping the current process. ATSSA training has moved to online and Dan is considering working with them.

Flagger training and the flagger handbook are now located on the WRL.

WRL – Clayton Burke

We have had a boost in WRL usage since the Information Sharing Workshop.

Web analytics for **Jan. 1, 2020 – April 14, 2020**

Total pageviews: 2,523

Total unique users: 432

Average session duration: 00:05:56

61% new visitors and 39% returning visitors

Web analytics (**Jan. 1, 2019 – Jan. 1, 2020**)

Total pageviews: 3,857

Total unique users: 356

Average session duration: 00:06:46

57% new visitors and 43% returning visitor

Lane Closure Planning Tool - Willy Sorenson

See above information.

Working on future features:

- Data Quality Checks/Validation
- Adding RWIS Sensors
- New Layers
 - Border Bridges
 - AADT
 - Bridges and Streams

- Aerial view in tool
- 31 new sensors over 3 years

Mitigation Team - Dan, Willy, and Clayton

Completed the 2021 list we are starting to see the TCP checklist being used more and seeing the language “this is a TCP” in the concept.

Using project wise is still an issue and trying to find the concepts in the PW folders.

Next steps – make sure all 2021 have a TMP if needed (there are approximately 5).

Process Review - Dan Sprengeler

SRF and Dan working on. Working with FHWA on new process. FHWA would like to use Iowa as a case study.

Traffic & Safety

Tim Crouch – FHWA approved a request to experiment with temp signals with pilot car without flaggers. Need to study and report based on 2020 work. Dan working on plan. Iowa state involved in evaluation.

Counties may be willing to volunteer a project to participate in the study - Brenda

Bridge:

Chat Comment:

Bridge does not have any updates for this meeting. Thanks for the good and informative information today. – James S Nelson

Maintenance:

Chat Comment:

Maintenance does not have any update. Thank you. – Brad Lauderman

Local Systems:

Local Systems does not have an update relevant to Work Zones at this time. – Brenda

District 6:

Johnny Shanahan, pink signs for incident management. Any information on how those are working out?

D5 has some and are just now beginning to use them and tracking their use via EIN reports. They have gotten little use yet this season

Work Zone Incident Updates - Clayton and Districts

No interstate work zone fatalities in 2020 to date.

ACTION Clayton to send out a quarterly report to this group. (from Chat)

Adjourn

Future Meetings

July 16, 2020

October 15, 2020

Action Items

Actions Needed	Responsibility
Report back on speed feedback trailer pilot at next meeting.	Brad Lauderman
Work on guidance or policy for the LCPT.	Willy Sorenson
Review and report on the current Iowa code and work zone policy on work zones and using the shoulder for passing/as a lane.	Steve Gent
Send out a quarterly report on work zone fatalities to this group.	Clayton B