



Record of Meeting

SRF No. 11993/12499

Location: DOT-Ames NW Wing 1st Floor Conference Room and SKYPE
Client: Iowa Department of Transportation
Date: January 16, 2020
Subject: Work Zone Council Meeting

From: SRF Consulting Group 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 Introduction – Scott Marler

Scott Marler welcomed everyone to the second Work Zone Council meeting and stated this was a good agenda that addresses the DOT needs. He further stated that the Council provides a great opportunity to keep people updated and move work back and forth between other groups.

New Business:

All Projects need a TTC Plan and TTC Concept Statement – Dan Sprengeler

Dan Sprengeler, Design Bureau, stated that all projects need Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) Plans and Concept statements so we can track performance of all projects to ensure we are addressing safety and mobility. These need to include the strategy to mitigate impacts and provide TTC. Discussion at the recent Capability Maturity Framework (CMF) workshop indicated a need to include statewide contracts, i.e. signing, striping etc. This applies only to DOT projects not local projects on their own roadway, or only if local projects impact state highway, there is a need to clarify the scope of this requirement.

There is a gap on daily maintenance, and this is a challenge that needs to be streamlined and reported. Brad Fleming, Maintenance Bureau, stated that most higher volume maintenance work is

starting to use the Lane Closure Planning Tool (LCPT) to schedule work and lane closures, except for emergency operations.

Speed Feedback Trailer for Maintenance Operations – Dan Sprengeler

The Work Zone Safety Committee (WZSC) is starting to implement Speed Feedback Trailers on contract projects. Maintenance has concerns with implementing Speed Feedback Trailers on daily operations:

- There are a limited number of trailers available (each district has a minimum of two trailers).
- Deploying these trailers requires additional equipment and manpower to tow, deploy, and relocate the trailer(s) for each lane closure.
- A majority of maintenance operations use mobile/moving TTC increasing the need for additional vehicles and workers.

The WZSC provided a 4-hour minimum to address the mobile/moving operations, however there are other issues need to be addressed.

Steve Gent, Traffic and Safety Bureau, suggested that maintenance may be exempt from this as a requirement.

To address these concerns, District 5 is conducting a pilot project to gather information on the use of these trailers on maintenance operations. The pilot needs to document how many closures, how long the closures are in place and then determine how much equipment is needed and to address how to implement a policy over time once demonstration is over.

Upon completion of the pilot project a policy on when and where to use speed feedback trailers on maintenance operations will be developed.

Work Zone Operations Performance Measures – Dan Sprengeler

Dan Sprengeler said there is a great deal of data available, but we need to determine what is an acceptable level of delay.

Scott Marler stated the focus should be on “are we making the work zones safer? Is traffic moving more smoothly?” We need to put the Intelligent Work Zone (IWZ) data from Iowa State in front of the council to help make decisions.

Dan added that other concerns are understanding how work zone are impacting commerce. All of this focuses on how we measure the performance of traffic safety and mobility through work zones. There is a possibility to get some of this information from TMC traffic operations monthly report.

Jim Webb, District 5, offered that they compiled data from the TMC for a project on I35 in District 5 to aid in determining impacts to mobility.

Need to determine and know where the work zones are located, and the status of where are we today – TMC, INTRANS, and Districts to bring back a report to the Council. The WZMTO group should take the lead in this effort with a focus on use of all existing data for safety and mobility.

Contract Specification Enforcement – Clayton Burke

Clayton Burke, Bureau of Construction and Materials, observed that many RCEs are requiring a Trained TTC technician to sign the daily traffic control diary. This is not always necessary; it could be any contractor employee unless there is a major change or issue the RCE feels should be documented by the trained TTC technician.

Tom Reis, Contracts and Specifications Bureau stated during the Specification Committee meeting that TTC requirements were once all in the 1100 series in the front, now there are spread everywhere. These should be centralized so contractors, internal etc. -only need to look one place for all the TTC spec information. The goal is the DOT needs to be consistent with standards enforcement. Mark Bortle and Clayton are working on putting TTC requirements/specs in one location. Currently addressing parking of private vehicles (employees) in construction limits, especially on interstate.

Discussion on issues of consistency in the Spec:

- 24-hour TTC monitoring with incident response and use of Protect the Queue – which option is best for what conditions? The Bureau of Traffic Operations is addressing this and will put on February Work Zone Safety Committee Agenda.
- Pavement markings are required by specification within specific timelines. These are not being followed on all construction projects or maintenance operations.

Future Council Meetings – Dan Sprengeler

To streamline the discussion, use of a consent agenda to communicate completed actions is being considered for future council meetings. The purpose is to provide information without the need to discuss details during the meeting. Dan Sprengeler stated that we need to find a way for everyone to submit these items for inclusion in the agenda. Scott Marler stressed that we must careful and make sure we do not loose ability to address items.

Update from Each Work Zone Council Group:

Work Zone Management and Traffic Operations Updates

Intelligent Work Zones – Tim Simodynes

- Completed the 2020 IWZ planning calls with all 6 districts
- Street Smart Rental is under a new contract this year, they won low bid and in technical scoring.
- IWZ device funds for this contract come from project funds.

Training- Dan Sprengeler

- Winter training starts in March 2020 at seven locations.
- Mark Bortle will be coming back to assist with this training.
- Keith Knapp, Iowa State LTAP is looking at delivery of work zone training and what is needed and how to provide.

Lane Closure Planning Tool – Willy Sorenson

Willy Sorenson was not in attendance and Dan Sprengeler led this discussion.

- Working out some bugs and filling data gaps with additional sensors.
- Please report back any issues to Willy Sorenson.
- Need to have good hourly traffic volume, not just ADT.
- Would like to transition from point data to segment data.
- It must be remembered the LCPT is not the sole source for decision making:
 - Additional guidance on decision making is needed.
 - Box and whisker plots are good at demonstrating the highs and lows experienced over the selected time period;
 - Does not work well if there are items such as local conditions/events etc.
- The LCPT will always be in development.
- Training or user manual needs to be created.
- Tim Simodynes informed everyone that he can arrange to put out sensors for short time as part of the IWZ contract to gather data.

The Work Zone Safety Committee consider outreach to districts is needed so clarify use of the tool. Idea is to have a You Tube video training posted to the WRL.

Mitigation Team – Dan Sprengeler, Willy Sorenson, and Clayton Burke

There is more consistent used of the TCP checklist when completing concepts. Next step SOPs for once the checklist is complete needs to be addressed by the mitigation committee. Items to be included are: assigning an ITS project number for funding, assigning follow up contact for checklist author, assigning dates in PSS, etc.

Process Review – Dan Sprengeler

SRF will work with Dan Sprengeler to revise process review and complete a new standard operating procedure to include CMF workshop as part of the process. Key is to look at the impacts work zones have and are we doing the right thing?

Central Office:

Traffic & Safety No Report

Bridge No Report

Design No Report

Traffic Operations –No Report

Construction & Materials – The Information Sharing Workshop was well received and there has been positive feedback and support to continue to hold the workshop this year.

Maintenance No Report

Local Systems No Report

Motor Vehicle Enforcement No Report

District:

1 No Report

2 No Report

3 No Report

4 No Report

5 – Jim Webb reported that they had a situation with a paint crew while painting the centerline on a two-lane country road with traffic passing on the right using the gravel shoulder. The Iowa State Patrol issued tickets to these drivers because passing on shoulder, violates Iowa code. The striper is in lane while painting the centerline. The Work Zone Traffic Safety Committee will address this issue and report back at the next council meeting.

6 No Report

Work Zone Incident Updates – Clayton & Districts

One fatality on I-35 near Ankeny – trying to find report. Single vehicle run off road hit tree.

Work Zone Safety Award Update – Dan, Willy, Clayton

Had 12 submittals, revised categories. Five projects selected and will be awarded at conferences. All conferences are okay with Iowa DOT taking time to present the awards during this time. ICPA and APAI. Need to determine what the awards will look like and who will be presenting. Wes Musgrove asked to be included in the next meeting for these awards.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

April 16, 2020

July 16, 2020

October 15, 2020

Action Items

Actions Needed	Responsibility
Complete Speed Feedback Trailer pilot in district 5, report what lessons were learned. The Work Zone Safety Committee can then scale this to a statewide level.	Dan Sprengeler and Work Zone Safety Committee
Need to determine and know where are work zones, and status of where are we today with work zone performance measures. The WZMTO group should take the lead in	Wes, Tim and Work Zone Management Traffic Operations Committee

<p>this effort with a focus on use of existing data and report back at the next council meeting.</p>	
<p>Improve construction specifications for consistent results with TTC. Agenda item for the work zone safety committee meeting in February and report to council at next meeting.</p>	<p>Clayton Burke and Work Zone Safety Committee</p>
<p>Work Zone Safety Committee consider outreach for LCPT to districts to clarify use of the tool. Idea is to have a You Tube video training. Report back to council at next meeting.</p>	<p>Willy Sorenson and Work Zone Safety Committee</p>
<p>Revise process review and complete SOP to include CMF workshop as part of the process.</p>	<p>Dan Sprengeler and SRF</p>
<p>TTC for paint striping on two lane roads and passing on shoulder with respect to Iowa Code. Report back at next council meeting.</p>	<p>Work Zone Safety Committee</p>