MEETING SUMMARY

Traffic Safety Engineering Workgroup
January 25, 2005
8:30am-2:00pm
UW-Madison College of Engineering
Engineering Centers Building, Room 1045

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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MEETING DISCUSSION

1. Meeting Opening

The Traffic Safety Engineering Workgroup Formative Meeting was well participated by the representatives from five districts, BHO, BHD, FHWA and TOPS lab. After self-introductions, Todd Szymkowski went through the agenda items of the meeting. The agenda includes background, need and purpose of forming the engineering workgroup, ongoing/upcoming traffic safety engineering initiatives and projects, workgroup scope and its refinement, year one action plan discussion as well as the follow-up action plan refinement.

2. Background, Needs and Purpose

Dr. Qin of TOPS lab briefly reviewed the efforts that the transportation safety arena in Wisconsin, led by WisDOT, has taken to improve state transportation safety and reduce
number of crashes. The journey starts from the 1999 Oshkosh Strategic Change Event, experiences 2000 Kalahari Departmental Traffic Safety Strategic Event, 2001 the development of WisDOT 2001-03 Strategic Highway Safety Plan, 2002 DTD safety team report to recent on-going effort of updating the 2004-06 WisDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan. A collection of plans have been developed and a variety of safety issue areas have been identified through the process. The events witnesses John Corbin of WisDOT and Bill Bremer of FHWA commented the achievements made by the past. The district engineers who involved in the development of the 2002 DTD safety action plan also expressed their expectation toward the formative of the workgroup.

Following that, John Corbin of WisDOT stressed the needs and purpose of forming the WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineering Workgroup (TSEWG). He focused on four areas that the group can contribute to:

- Support policy development and management for traffic safety engineering functions
- Peer networking to share needs and best practices in the area of traffic safety engineering
- A focal point for traffic safety engineering that links WISDOT to regional & national programs
- Statewide dialogue between traffic safety engineers and others in the WISDOT Highway Safety Community that includes BOTS Regional Program Managers & State Patrol Officers

2. Ongoing/upcoming traffic safety engineering initiatives and projects

Todd Szmkowski handed out one-page matrix showing five traffic safety engineering focus areas along with the background, status and next steps. The five areas are:

- Intersection Safety Countermeasures,
- Run-Off-The-Road Crash Countermeasures,
- Traffic Safety Engineering Data Management,
- Work Zone Management and Safety, and
- Road Weather Safety.

Todd also provided a chart presenting the overview of the existing traffic safety engineering program as well as its relationship with other organizations such as Traffic Safety Council, WisDOT BHO, etc.

3. Workgroup Scope/Refinement

After reviewing the current organizational structure of the WisDOT and on-going, upcoming traffic safety projects, the workgroup faced two basic questions: will the workgroup assist in meeting the needs and if not, what should be modified now? The follow-up discussion of the Year 1 Action Plan from the group provides answers.

4. Year 1 Action Plan Discussion and Its Refinement

Every meeting attendee actively joined the development of the year 1 action plan facilitated by Todd and Xiao. The discussion continued for 3 hours, including a lunch break. Surrounding the workgroup scope, the discussion concentrated on four aspects:

1. potential actions by focus areas,
2. Identify working level champion,
3. Identify any other organizations (internal and external) that require input, and
4. measures.

The discussion is very productive and comprehensive, including the perspectives from different districts, divisions within and outside of the stateDOT. Todd provided on-line updates of the discussion, which is included in the powerpoint presentation of the meeting. Also, the matrix used in agenda item 2 was updated accordingly. The results are concluded in the following sections.

Focus Area 1: Intersection Safety Countermeasures

Potential Actions:
- Update Intersection Safety Study with the most recent crash data available
- Develop statewide “sites of promise” listing based on TBD filters and trends
- Develop Intersection Safety Countermeasures Plan for both signalized and unsignalized intersections
- Identify early winner countermeasures strategies using data completed intersection safety study
- Signalized Intersection Report Card Follow-Through
- Support AAA Road Improvement Demonstration (RIDP) Safety Audits

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): TSEWG Intersection/ROR Safety Sub Group
- Graham
- Dick
- Pat
- Jill
- Scott

Focus Area 2: Run-Off-The-Road Crash Countermeasures

Potential Actions:
- Develop TOPS Laboratory work order to develop ROR safety countermeasures plan with near-term emphasis on addressing clear zone issues
- Update ROR study data with current information
- Guide PIs on how data / tools should be presented
- Communicate results of ROR and X-Over Projects

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): TSEWG Intersection/ROR Safety Sub Group

Focus Area 3: Traffic Safety Engineering Data Management

Potential Actions:
- Work with TOPS Laboratory and FHWA to pilot use of GIS crash mapping by integrating currently separate local road and STH mapping
- Investigate leveraging DTD View for Crash Mapping and Analysis
- If pilot is successful, integrate preferred crash mapping/analysis into TransPortal
- Integrate Safety Data (i.e., intersection/ROR) into Metamanager
- Digitize Historical Crash Reports – 5-10 years
- Develop Tools and Products to support STH AND Local Needs

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): TSEWG, BHO Traffic, Traffic Records Coordinating Committee
- Bill, David, Xiao, Steven

Focus Area 4: Work Zone Management and Safety

Potential Actions:
- Initiate WZMS Speed Monitoring and Evaluation Project
- Hold Spring 2005 WZMS Promotional Event in conjunction with Work Zone Safety Week
- Take steps to comply with FHWA Work Zone Planning Rule

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): WZMSTF

Focus Area 5: Road Weather Safety

Potential Actions:
- Reconvene Road Weather Safety Task Force to share initial findings from literature search and agency surveys
- Present draft RWS Audit framework
- Develop array of countermeasures that could be tested on a pilot basis

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): RWSTF

Focus Area 6: Organizational and Institutional Decision Support

Potential Actions:
- Track Safety Engineering Issues through Reorganization
  - Regional Safety Engineer Role
  - DTSD Central Bureau Roles
- Develop Safety Related Performance Measures
- Ensure SHSP Champions Identified
- Partner with appropriate professional organizations to share local safety information (e.g., ITE Wisconsin UTEC, WCHA, LTAP)
- Develop Guidance and Training for TSE
  - Safety 101 Training
  - Educate practitioners on use of Intersection/ROR tools

Related Agencies (Task forces, Champions): TSEWG (Liaisons to TSC)

5. NEXT STEPS

TSEWG celebrated its establishment and planned to meet quarterly in order to keep the memento and have the actions implemented. The next group meeting is scheduled in May. Tops lab is responsible for posting all the meeting agenda, minutes and relevant resources. The TSEWG website is at:
http://www.topslab.wisc.edu/resources/trafficsafety.htm

The next meeting of the TSEWG is:

THURSDAY, May 5, 2005
8:30am – 2:00pm
UW-Madison College of Engineering
Engineering Centers Building, Room 1045
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