Federal Highway Administration

Implementing the Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility

Bill Bremer FHWA Wisconsin Division
Overview of Updated Rule

- Establishes requirements and provides guidance for:
  - Systematically addressing WZ safety and mobility impacts
  - Developing strategies to help manage these impacts on all Federal-aid highway projects

- Timeframes
  - Published Final Rule September 2004
  - Must implement rule provisions by October 2007

- “Must implement” means:
  - Recipients of Federal-aid funds will adapt practices & policies
  - These emerge as internal business changes and contract changes
Overview of the Final Rule

Goals:

- Expand thinking beyond the actual WZ itself
  - Corridor, network, and regional issues (e.g., alternate routes and/or modes, truck traffic, special events, etc.)

- Expand WZ management beyond “traffic safety and control”
  - Address mobility in addition to safety
  - Address current day issues of “operations and management” and “public information”

- Advocate innovative thinking in WZ planning, design, and management
  - Think outside of the “traffic safety and management” box
Overview of the Final Rule

Specific Focus Areas:

• Institutionalize WZ processes, procedures, practices
• Advocate partnership, and multi-disciplinary approach
• Communicate more effectively with the public
• Advance WZ considerations throughout project delivery
• Address needs for different project types and classes
• Emphasize work zone focused training
• Emphasize performance monitoring and assessment
Provisions – In a Nutshell

State implemented policy for the systematic consideration and management of WZ impacts

Processes and procedures to implement and sustain WZ policy

Project-Level Procedures to Assess and Manage Impacts on Individual Projects
Agency WZ Safety and Mobility Policy

- Develop/Implement a policy for the systematic consideration and management of WZ impacts
- May vary based on project characteristics and expected WZ impacts
- Can be in the form of processes, procedures, and/or guidance
Agency Level Processes and Procedures

• Use WZ safety and mobility info/data:
  – To manage impacts on ongoing projects
  – From multiple projects to improve processes and procedures

• Require training for personnel involved in WZ planning, design, implementation, management, and enforcement

• Conduct bi-annual process reviews to assess effectiveness of and improve state WZ procedures

• Procedures for systematic WZ impacts assessment and management
Impacts Assessment

• Encourages agencies to develop and implement procedures for WZ impacts assessment and management

• Does not prescribe a specific approach

• Assessing WZ impacts intended to help transportation professionals:
  – Understand WZ safety and mobility impacts of road projects
  – Understand WZ safety and mobility implications of alternative project options and design strategies
  – Identify transportation management strategies that help manage WZ impacts of a project
Project-Level Procedures

- Identify significant projects
- Develop transportation management plans (TMPs) for projects
- Include appropriate TMP provisions in the PS&Es
- Implement and monitor TMPs for projects
  - (e) Responsible persons. The State and the contractor shall each designate a trained person at the project level who has the primary responsibility and sufficient authority for implementing the TMP and other safety and mobility aspects of the project.
Significant Projects

• Projects anticipated to cause sustained WZ impacts greater than what is considered tolerable based on state policy and/or engineering judgment

• Can be from an individual project or from the combined effects of other projects in the same area

• Automatically includes Interstate system projects within a Transportation Management Area (TMA) that:
  – Occupy a location for more than 3 days
  – Have either intermittent or continuous lane closures
  – State may request an exception for a project meeting these criteria

• Identify as early as possible
TMPs

• Consists of strategies to manage the WZ impacts of a project

• Content will vary based on Agency’s WZ policy and anticipated WZ impacts of a project

• Must contain a temporary traffic control plan for all projects

• Transportation operations and public information components:
  – Required for significant projects
  – Encouraged to consider for other projects
Developing TMPs for Projects

PLANNING/DESIGN

1. Compile Project Material
   - Project definition(scope)
   - Construction staging approaches
   - Preliminary management strategies

2. Determine TMP Needs - Significant Project?
   - No
   - Yes

3. Basic TMP
   - TTC

4. Intermediate TMP
   - TTC
   - TO, PI as appropriate

5. Major TMP
   - TTC, TO, PI

6. Identify Stakeholders

7. Develop TMP
   - Analyze work zone impacts
   - Draft management strategies
   - Estimate implementation costs
   - Solicit review and comments

8. Finalize Construction Staging and TMP
   - Agency approval
   - Stakeholder buy-in

CONSTRUCTION

7. Re-evaluate/Revise TMP
   - State approval
   - Implementation costs

8. Implement TMP

9. TMP Monitoring
   - Monitor mobility, safety, and community impacts, and management strategy effectiveness

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

10. Post-Project Evaluation

Policies and Procedures
Purpose of the Guide

• Provide general guidance, fundamental principles, and options to implement the provisions of the rule
  – Not intended to be a “how-to” guide
  – Not intended to be the only approach to implementing the provisions of the Rule

• Provide examples of what some agencies are currently doing

• Provide sources and references for more information
Implementation and Compliance

• Conformance review and assessment by FHWA Division
• Incorporation into State/FHWA stewardship agreements
• Implementation and compliance timeline- October 2007
• Variances from compliance requirements - Agencies may request variances from the compliance requirement on a project-by-project basis:
  – For projects that are in the later stages of development at or about the compliance date, and
  – If it is determined that the delivery of those projects would be significantly impacted as a result of the Rule’s provisions.
Final Rule Web Site

http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule.htm

• Content available:
  – Implementation Guide
  – Brochure and fact sheets
  – Rule language
  – Presentations on the rule
  – Examples

• Planned content:
  – Other Guidance Documents
  – FAQs
  – Training Opportunities

FHWA Work Zone Web Site
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones