Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Implementation

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Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Implementation

- **Existing WisDOT Procedures**
  - Traffic Control Plans
  - 30-minute delay guideline
  - Mitigation strategies
  - Traffic law enforcement contracts
  - Training
  - Work zone process reviews

- **New rule broadens WZ safety and mobility emphasis**
  - Consistent statewide consideration of work zone impacts for construction & maintenance projects
  - All phases of projects, from programming and scoping through design and construction
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- **Timeline**
  - February – March 2006: Review federal guides, other states’ implementation plans, and applicable WisDOT 2008 construction projects
  - March – November 2006: Lane closure map & guidelines development
  - May – July 2006: Update & develop processes for monitoring/evaluating work zone performance
  - August – December 2006: Identify & develop work zone training needs & processes
  - December 2006: Finalize WisDOT manuals guidance
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- Stakeholder groups
  - WZ Mgmt. & Safety Advisory Group, WTBA, WCHA
  - WisDOT technical standing committees
  - WisDOT Regions
  - WisDOT management groups

- Related initiatives
  - Strategic Highway Safety Plan
  - UW work zone evaluation initiatives & Smart Work Zone pooled fund
  - Lane closure guidelines development
  - Online lane closure tracking/permitting system (California example)
  - Traffic Engineering Services Certification Program
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT WZ Safety & Mobility Policy

- Existing 30-minute delay guideline
  - Should it be revised?
  - Need varied criteria based on duration of lane closure (Ohio example)
- Level of WisDOT investment in mitigation of work zone impacts
- Establish policy on innovative traffic control devices
  - Portable traveler warning & information systems
  - Movable barrier
  - Temporary rumble strips & transverse pavement markings
  - Radar speed display boards
  - Flagging devices
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Processes & Procedures

- Processes will evolve over time
- Evaluate & manage work zone impacts from programming & scoping through design & construction
  - Use work zone data (traffic volumes, travel time, speed & crash data) to estimate & monitor impacts
  - Need data collection tools & methods
- Training
  - Identify & develop work zone safety/mobility training needs & processes
  - Incorporate into Traffic Engineering Services Certification Program
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Processes & Procedures

- Update WisDOT work zone process reviews
  - Field reviews, traffic control plans
  - More evaluation of congestion & crashes
  - UW Traffic Operations & Safety (TOPS) Lab – speeds, volumes, travel time, crashes

- Work zone impacts assessment procedures
  - Lane closure map, guidelines & permitting process to promote statewide consistency
  - Analysis procedures for significant safety/mobility impacts
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT WZ Impacts Assessment

- Impacts assessment should consider:
  - Safety
  - User delay
  - Access (for large traffic generators, pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, transit)
  - Emergency services

- Need reasonable criteria for when impacts assessment should be conducted
  - Freeways, expressways, other backbone routes & urban arterials, especially if lane closures
  - Projects with potential to significantly disrupt access for large traffic generators, peds, bikes, transit, emergency services
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT WZ Impacts Assessment

- Develop expertise & training to assess impacts
  - Tools that are easy to use
- Add or modify procedures in WisDOT manuals
- Work Zone Traffic Management Report
  - Document in Design Study Report
  - Process to develop & submit
  - Describe staging method, proposed strategies to mitigate impacts, need for law enforcement mitigation contract
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT WZ Impacts Assessment

- Resources & staffing to conduct impacts assessments, beginning with 2008 construction projects
  - Regional
  - Statewide – BHO, BPD
  - Both?

- Exception process
  - Review/Exception Committee or individual
  - Regional, Statewide, or combination
  - Ohio & California examples
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Project-Level Procedures

- Develop Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) for projects
  - Traffic control plan – all projects
  - Transportation operations component – if project will have significant safety impacts, or if lane or road closure on freeway, expressway, or other arterials will cause delays exceeding WisDOT guideline
  - Public information component – if roads closed, access significantly disrupted, or delays expected to exceed WisDOT guideline
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Transportation Management Plans

- Traffic control plan
  - Similar to current traffic control plans
  - Traditional traffic control devices
  - Staging methods
  - Lane closure restrictions
  - Use of innovative traffic controls
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Transportation Management Plans

- Transportation operations component, includes strategies to mitigate work zone impacts:
  - Portable traveler warning & information systems
  - Alternate routes
  - Alternate modes
  - Portable changeable message signs
  - Law enforcement mitigation contracts
  - Incident management plans
  - Innovative contracting methods
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Transportation Management Plans

- Public information component
  - Project-level communications to inform road users, public, residents, businesses of expected impacts and changing project conditions
  - Public outreach & communication remain key to success of projects
  - Traveler warning & information
Federal Work Zone Rule – WisDOT Transportation Management Plans

- Add or modify procedures in Facilities Development Manual and Maintenance Manual
- Need funding programmed for:
  - Traffic staging alternatives
  - Enhanced devices (e.g., for night work)
  - Innovative traffic control & contracting strategies
  - Alternate routes & modes
  - Incident management activities
  - Law enforcement mitigation contracts
  - Public outreach & communications