MEETING SUMMARY

Work Zone Management and Safety Advisory Group
Thursday, March 10, 2005
9:30 AM to Noon
UW-Madison College of Engineering
Engineering Centers Building, Room 1045
Madison, Wisconsin

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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MEETING DISCUSSION

1. Meeting Opening/Introductions

After brief introductions, Tom Notbohm and Todd Szymkowski provided a brief overview of the agenda.

2. Previous Meeting Follow-up

Two topics were included on the agenda as follow-up to the August 9th Meeting:

1. *Enforcement Traffic Impact Mitigation Process Update* – There were no representatives from Wisconsin State Patrol to provide an update. The issue will be carried onto the next meeting agenda.

3. Work Zone Management and Safety Program

Several issues were discussed under the Work Zone Management and Safety Program topic including:
1. Work Zone Management and Safety Evaluation Initiative – Xiao Qin provided an update on the Work Zone Management and Safety Evaluation Initiative including:

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Formative Meeting Summary – Xiao Qin indicated the TAG met on March 23rd to discuss what types of work zone speed reduction strategies will be analyzed in 2005.

- 2005 Speed Reduction Countermeasure Sites – Xiao indicated that speeds will likely be collected using a non-intrusive traffic detection device that can be accessed remotely and will also coincide with the speed reduction evaluation areas where possible.

- 2005 Work Zone Speed Data Collection Sites – A list of potential sites was shared with the group identifying location, speed reduction strategies, area type, and listing of preferred telecommunications to support remote data collection. One suggestion included incorporating media activities in urban areas and also sharing how many tickets have been issued in the work zone using a portable changeable message sign (PCMS). Another suggestion included analyzing use of alternative, modified mobile operations.

4. April 7th Work Zone Safety Call to Action Workshop

The group discussed the upcoming Work Zone Safety Call to Action Workshop. Tom Notbohm and Todd Szymkowski briefed the group on activities associated with the event since the previous task force meeting. A small group of people convened multiple teleconferences to discuss the agenda and details associated with the event. The group decided there should be three distinct components to the event: 1) education, 2) media outreach and 3) strategic planning. Todd Szymkowski asked those in attendance to distribute the registration material to those that may be interested in attending the April 7th event on the east of Madison at the Holiday Inn.

Editor’s Note. Over 70 people attended the morning session of the event. The event received limited news coverage in the local media and there was significant dialogue in the afternoon strategic planning discussions to allow the TOPS Laboratory to develop an Action Plan to guide future work zone management and safety initiatives.

5. Wisconsin Work Zone Management Organizational Structure

Tom Notbohm shared a conceptual proposal for a WisDOT Work Zone Steering which would receive external information from the Work Zone Management and Safety Advisory Group.

6. Other Issues Discussed

Darren Muljo discussed contractor perspectives related to speed reductions in work zones. John Corbin described additional background on traffic operations and traffic safety engineering fundamentals (i.e., 85th percentile speed) that have guided WisDOT’s stance on work zone speed reductions. The group agreed there needs to be additional discussion and education between the contractor, law enforcement, and engineering communities to suggest strategies that could be standardized on a statewide basis that more adequately addressed everybody’s concerns.
ACTIONS

- Convene April 7th Call to Action Workshop
- Discuss the following topics at next meeting: Differential Speed Limits, Work Zone Rule Implementation, and Enforcement
- Continue to move forward on establishing 2005 speed reduction and monitoring sites

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Work Zone Management and Safety Advisory Group is:

THURSDAY, June 9, 2005
9:30 AM - Noon
UW-Madison College of Engineering
Engineering Centers Building, Room 1045
1550 Engineering Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1609