

Work Zone Safety Task Force
Meeting #7
Thursday, July 24, 2025

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Meeting ID: 225 582 266 134

Passcode: jm3zP3ZH

Meeting Summary

1. **Presentations (25 min)**
 - a. **Alert Warning System** – Michael Netherton (15 min) – Michael gave an overview of the audible attenuator (mixture of light and sound). Produces 130dB for directly in back of vehicle (narrow cone of sound) and designed to not be confused with an emergency vehicle. Developed with MoDOT. Iowa DOT has mandated the use of this in all work vehicles. Will be doing a pilot in Wisconsin. It has dramatically reduced rearend crashes in crowded urban locations. One configuration is manually operated system where the driver controls, another configuration available is fully automated. Unclear if DOTs using this restrict sound during certain hours (nighttime, etc.). Does not require internal wiring. The system costs about \$8000. From a University of Missouri study, using just lights increased 34% in driver awareness. Since MoDOT has implemented, they have not had any rearend collisions with these operations using this product.
 - b. **Traffic Incident Management in Work Zones: Training for Contractors & Field Engineers and Work Zone Safety Grant Trainings** – Adam Francour (10 min) – These courses coming up in July and August. Part of a FHWA Safety grant the TOPS Lab received has allowed them to develop new trainings and continue previous trainings. Another course is WZ Designer Overview Training, which is a 12-hour webinar course delivered over multiple days to cover a number of design topics. Other courses being offered are: Designing Temporary Ped/Bicycle Accommodations and Safe System in Work Zones, WZDX 101, MUTCD/PROWAG Implication for Work Zones, and Utility Traffic Control trainings. Courses can be found here:
<https://topslab.wisc.edu/training/>
2. **Work Zone Safety in the Budget** – Elise Nelson – since last meeting, the State Budget has been signed into law. Enhanced work zone safety pilot will study up to 10 projects on 2-lane roads and will be completed by April 30, 2027. There was also a grant for a work zone safety educational program that can be completed over the internet for drivers' education.
3. **Education, Public Awareness & Social Media** – Steven Theisen
 - a. Gas Station PSA; I-41 between Appleton and Green Bay – been viewed at a number of gas station locations and Kwik Trips.
 - b. Region Work Zone Safety Events – recap & update – had WZ Safety Events in SW, NW, NC and NE Regions. Upcoming are August 13 in Elcho (Langlade County) and July 28 in Superior (Douglas County). Already planning for 2026 WZAW.
 - c. Planning for Work Zone Awareness Week 2026
4. **Temporary Traffic Control** – Josh Skartsen/Andy Heidtke – Been reviewing a list of recent projects in SE Region. Future guidance suggestions include adding another milestone at prior to 60%, adding utility permit requirements for TMP and municipal projects use similar to TCC requirements, and development of a decision matrix based on project type. The development of guidance will occur

within WisDOT along with input from WisDOT management to consider level of impact. Looking for additional volunteers to help with this effort; reach out to Josh Skartsen if interested. Will be writing up a summary before turning over to WisDOT.

5. **Aerial Speed Enforcement Update** – Erin Schwark – a number of aerial enforcement deployments have occurred on a number of projects. An additional one scheduled for August at SW Region I-39/90 project.

	IH 41 – 6/15/25	IH 94 - 6/23/25	IH 94 - 7/17/25
# DSP Units	4	4	4
# DSP Stops	25	38	38
Speed Limit	70	60	60
High MPH	90	100.6	92.4
Average Speed	85	78.9	82.4
Total Speed Stops	24	38	38
# Speed 100+ MPH	0	1	0

6. **Connected Work Zones** – Erin Schwark – WisDOT has officially rolled out the use of connected work zones and it will be required in 2026. 511WI to include a verified check box next to closures that have connected devices.
7. **SMART Grant Updates** – Erin Schwark
- Autonomous Truck Mounted Attenuator (ATMA) Update – WisDOT completed a 1-week demo with Dane County Highway Department to test an autonomous TMA. Tested on closed road in parking lot and open road testing for pavement marking operations. Costs around \$500,000 to install on existing fleet and for training. Worked great overall, but could add time to operations and at one time the vehicle lost GPS signal making it make an aggressive maneuver, no ability to for the follower to back up. This would also require a state law to be changed as a driver is required. WisDOT will not be moving forward with the Stage 2 grant; however will continue to monitor the progression of the ATMA Technology.
 - WZDX to Local Roads Update – WisDOT has a grant that looked at how to address real-world issues surrounding work zone data which included determining how to provide work zone information not only on state highways, but also on local roads outside the department’s jurisdiction. Piloted connected devices on three local road projects and at the DOT Sign Shop. A component of the project was to determine balance between manual entry and automatic discovery of connected devices. Next steps would be to apply for Stage 2 grant which would turn into a 3-year project to build out this application.
8. **Open Discussion**
- Work Zone Flagger Video – WTBA members have asked to develop a work zone flagger video for industry use. If anyone has ideas, information (existing videos, best practices, etc.) or interest in helping develop this video, please reach out to Matt Grove, WTBA
 - Mobile Operations with TMA’s – 5 TMA hits (3 by contractors, 2 by counties) documented by WisDOT in 2025. WisDOT will continue to monitor TMA hits.

9. **Next Meeting: September 25, 2025 from 1 to 2 PM**

Website/Meeting Minutes: [Wisconsin Department of Transportation Work Zones](#)

Listserv Sign-Up: [content.dot.wi.gov/content/lyris/ops-manuals.htm](#)

Work Zone Safety Task Force Update

Meeting #7

July 24, 2025



Overview

- Two Presentations
- Work Zone Safety Initiatives in the Budget
- Education, Public Awareness & Social Media Update
- Temporary Traffic Control Update
- Aerial Speed Enforcement Update
- Connected Work Zones
- SMART Grant Updates
- Open Discussion/New Ideas



Presentations

- Alert Warning System (15 min)
 - Michael Netherton
- Traffic Incident Management in Work Zones:
Training for Contractors and Field Engineers & WZ
Safety Grant Trainings (10 min)
 - Adam Francour – UW Madison



Work Zone Safety Initiatives in the Budget

- Pilot of enhanced work zone safety measures on up to 10 projects on two-lane roadways
 - \$600,000
 - Data Collection, Report evaluating impact on worker safety
 - Completed by April 30, 2027
- Grant for a work zone safety educational program
 - \$120,000
 - The department shall award a grant to a private organization for the purpose of delivering a work zone safety course that can be completed over the Internet



Education, Public Awareness and Social Media

- Gas Station Display PSA Update

- Gas Station TV locations – hit 130,278 Impressions (IMPs) of 119,236 IMPs in May; hit 125,093 IMPs of 115,390 IMPs in June (both exceeded planned impressions)
- Kwik Trip locations – hit 324,838 IMPs of 400,000 IMPs in May; hit 314,057 IMPs of 400,000 IMPs in June
- More than 450 clicks on the I-41 project website QR code from May 1 to July 1. We'll receive the July analytics in early August.



Education, Public Awareness and Social Media

- Region Work Zone Safety Events – recap & update
 - SWR – May, SER – June
 - NWR – Monday in Superior with the Douglas County Highway Department and Lunda Construction
 - NCR event is planned for Wednesday, Aug. 13 in Elcho. Langlade County Highway Department and Musson Brothers Construction
 - NER - No date set
- Planning for Work Zone Awareness Week 2026
 - More to come later this year/early 2026



Temporary Traffic Control

- Compiled list of recent projects in SE Region
 - Other regions do not have as many state owned alternate routes adjacent to projects
- Future Guidance Suggestions:
 - Add another milestone at “prior to 60%” – Andy H. to consider adding to FDM
 - BTO/Planning/Scoping
 - Utility Permit requirements for TMP and Municipal Projects use similar TCC requirements
 - Development of Guidance with input from WisDOT Management (what level of impact is the department comfortable with)
- Current Examples:
 - NER – IH 43, SWR – Dells Parkway, SER – IH 894/Hale Interchange



Temporary Traffic Control

- Future Development

- Development of a decision matrix based on project type:

- Freeway
 - Urban Arterials
 - Rural

- Things to Consider

- Cost, Safety, Quality, Stakeholder Impacts

- Next Steps

- Turn this over to WisDOT or continue to develop within WZSTF?



Aerial Speed Enforcement Update

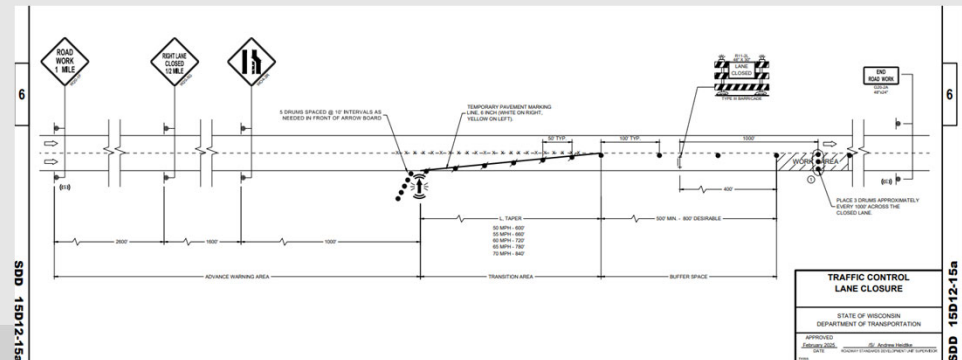
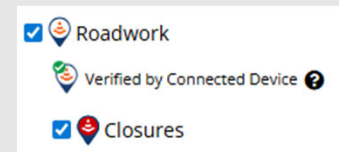
- NER I-41 Project
 - 1 detail
- NWR I-94 Project
 - 2 details
- SWR I-39/90 Project
 - Scheduled for August

	IH 41 – 6/15/25	IH 94 - 6/23/25	IH 94 - 7/17/25
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High MPH	90	100.6	92.4
Average Speed	85	78.9	82.4
Total Speed Stops	24	38	38
# Speed 100+ MPH	0	1	0



Connected Work Zones

- Connected Arrow Board and Connected WZ Start/End Location Markers included in plans and required in 2026
- 511WI to include a verified check box next to closures that have connected devices



SMART Grant - ATMA

- 1 week demo with Dane County Highway Department
- Closed Road Testing in Parking Lot & Open Road Testing for pavement marking operations
- Costs: \$500,000 for leader/follower and training/support



SMART Grant - ATMA

- Concerns:
 - Could potentially add time to operations, follower making aggressive maneuvers, abrupt stops on high-speed facilities, no ability for the follower to back up which is critical for marking on 2-lane conventional highways, paint tracking when pulling off the road to let queued vehicles pass
- ATMA would work better on multi-lane facilities, WisDOT contracts that work out
- State law still requires a safety driver at this time, so can't take advantage of all the safety benefits until a driver can be removed from the vehicle
- Next Steps:
 - Not moving forward with a Stage 2 Grant
 - Continue to monitor the progression of the ATMA Technology



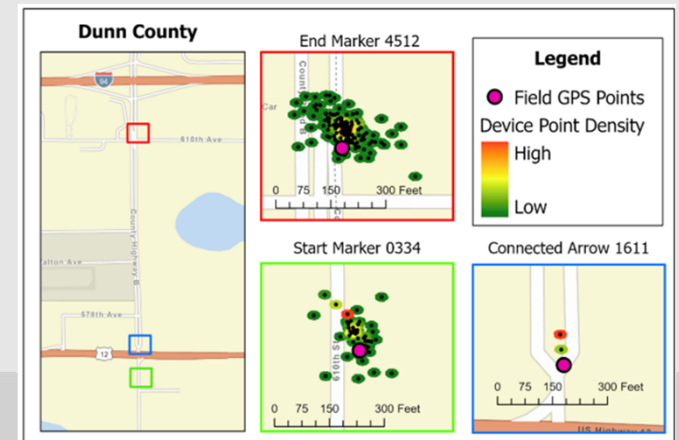
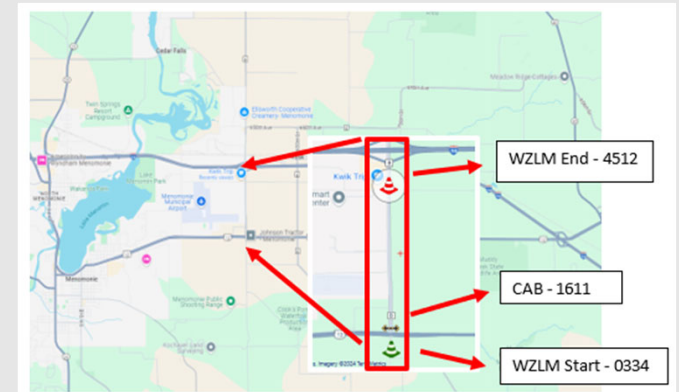
SMART Grant – WZDx to Local Roads

- The grant looked at how to address real-world issues surrounding work zone data which included determining how to provide work zone information not only on state highways, but also on local roads outside the department's jurisdiction.
- Learned a lot about connected devices as well as capabilities and limitations of the ATMS and WisLCS



SMART Grant – WZDx to Local Roads

- Piloted Connected Devices on three Local Roads and at the Sign Shop
- Collected data allowing for the determination of what roadway mapping needs are required for statewide implementation
- Stage 1 primarily relied on a WisLCS entry, but explored minimum device data that would be needed without a WisLCS entry
- Component of the project was to determine balance between manual entry and automatic discovery of connected devices



SMART Grant – WZDx to Local Roads

- Next Steps

- Get Approval for Stage 2 Grant, if approved;
- Apply for a Stage 2 Grant, if Notice of Funding Opportunity gets released

- Proposed Project Timeline

- Phase 1 – Year 1: WisDOT Improvement Projects with Local Road Impacts (To be implemented with updates to STSP/SDD and WisLCS – 2025/2026)
- Phase 1 – Year 1: WisDOT Local Program Projects (To be implemented with updates to STSP/SDD and WisLCS – 2025/2026)
- Phase 1 – Year 2: Local Projects Testing (no WisLCS Entry)
- Phase 2 – Year 3: Local Projects Roll-Out Statewide (no WisLCS Entry)



Work Zone Safety Task Force Open Discussion

- Work Zone Flagger Video
- Mobile Operations with TMA
 - 5 TMA hits documented to WisDOT in 2025
 - 3 Contractor and 2 County



Work Zone Safety Task Force Resources

- ListServ created for anyone to get updates/participate:
 - <https://www.content.dot.wi.gov/content/lyris/ops-manuals.htm>
- Meeting information shared on WisDOT Website:
 - <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/traffic-ops/programs/workzone/workzone.aspx>



Next Meeting

Thursday, September 25, 2025
1 PM to 2 PM



Erin Schwark, PE
Statewide Work Zone Operations Engineer

Erin.Schwark@dot.wi.gov

414-313-6841

