

PEDESTRIAN ISSUES IN WORK ZONES
TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2008

The technical group met on February 19, 2008 at 2 PM in the Traffic Control Conference Room, with the following in attendance:

Attendees

Joseph Ishak, PE - Chair
Jay Bennett, PE
Stuart Bourne, PE
Jeff Cox, PE
Jennifer Evans, PE
Tris Ford
Bucky Galloway, PE
Ron Hancock, PE
Mitch Hendee, PE
Brad Hibbs, PE
Jennifer Portanova, PE
Keith Raulston, PE
Walt Thompson

Representing

Work Zone Traffic Control Unit (WZTCU)
Roadway Design Unit
Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Bicycle and Pedestrian Division
Project Development and Environmental Analysis (PDEA)
PDEA – Public Involvement & Community Studies
Traffic Engineering Branch
Construction Unit
Alternative Delivery Unit
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Division 9
ADA Coordinator

Joseph Ishak began by updating the committee on the meeting with Debbie Barbour, Director of Preconstruction, on February 15, 2008 to discuss the progress of the committee. Ms. Barbour provided direction for how to proceed with the implementation and requested that designated members be assigned to a Pedestrian Task Force.

Brad Hibbs raised a concern presented to him by a counterpart about the perception of the Exception Criteria. Allowing an exception, with no plan to address the issue, may be perceived as pedestrian impacts are not given the same value as other impacts. The committee decided to make the following changes to address the comments from Debbie Barbour and Brad Hibbs:

➤ **Establish a Pedestrian Task Force**

The Pedestrian Task Force will include a designated representative from Roadway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, WZTCU, Construction Unit, PDEA, and Division. The committee discussed the possibility of the Task Force being a part of Safety Technical Group. Since the meeting Stuart Bourne discussed this with Debbie Barbour and Kevin Lacy, head of the Safety Technical Group, and they agreed that the Safety Technical Group would take on this responsibility after the Group was established. In the meantime, an interim group will be formed. The committee agreed to provide a representative's name to Joseph Ishak by **February 29th**.

➤ **Eliminate Exceptions and replace with a consultation with the Pedestrian Task Force**

The purpose of eliminating the exceptions was to address the concerns raised by FHWA and to utilize the Pedestrian Task Force recommended by Debbie Barbour. The Pedestrian Task Force will ensure that pedestrian impacts are being addressed during construction and may recommend "Alternate Mitigation Plans". Similar to the former Exceptions, the Pedestrian Task Force will be provided a checklist or "Criteria for Provisions to Accommodate Pedestrians during Construction" to be used in reviewing situations that may not easily accommodate pedestrian needs.

Prior to the meeting and the elimination of the Exceptions, Joseph Ishak prepared a list of revised exceptions to provide to the committee. During the meeting, the committee recommended modifying the list to be a checklist for the Pedestrian Task Force. The committee was asked to review the following list in the original format and provide comments by **February 29th**.

- The population, travel, and attractors, both existing and future, indicate an absence of need for such accommodations
- Environmental or social impacts outweigh the need for these accommodations
- Safety would be compromised
- Total cost of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to the appropriate system (i.e., interstate, primary, secondary, or urban system) would be excessively disproportionate to the need for the facility
- Purpose and scope of the specific project do not facilitate the provision of such accommodations
- Bicycle and pedestrian travel is prohibited by state or federal laws

The documents mentioned in the Draft Memo from Bill Rosser will be revised to reflect the elimination of the Exceptions. Since the meeting, the flowchart, "Guide to Determine Accommodation of Pedestrians in Work Zone", has been revised to reflect the change and is attached to the meeting minutes. As noted in the flowchart, documentation of the process will be required for any decision made regarding pedestrian in work zones.

Additional meeting discussion about how to proceed with the implementation and the education plan is noted below:

➤ **Implementation Process**

To progress towards implementation the committee will meet with Jon Nance, Director of Field Operations, email draft documents to the Division Engineers, and present the topic at the Operation staff meeting to get comments from the Divisions prior to requesting Mr. Rosser's signature. Since the meeting, Ron Hancock has met with Jon Nance and received no major comments other than the need for a plan to address municipal projects, encroachments, etc in the future. Stuart Bourne and Ron Hancock will plan to present the topic at the April Operations Staff meeting.

The need for a meeting with PDEA management and key committee members was discussed to progress the implementation within PDEA. Since the meeting, Jennifer Evans decided a smaller internal meeting would be a more appropriate approach and will proceed with such.

➤ **Education Plan**

Joseph Ishak and Ron Hancock are preparing a presentation at the Construction Conference and discussed developing a checklist for field personnel to inspect work zones. This checklist may eventually be included in the Construction Manual.

Since the meeting, Jennifer Evans and Tris Ford decided that the action items for PDEA listed in the "Recommended Changes" document needed to be condensed down to two major topics rather than several smaller details. This change has been incorporated into the document and the document is attached to the meeting minutes.

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 18, 2008** at 2 PM in the Traffic Control Conference Room. All interested parties should plan to attend the next meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ The committee will provide comments on the following items by February 29, 2008<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised flowchart• Name for Pedestrian Task Force• Revised Checklist items (formally Exceptions Criteria)❑ Attend the next meeting on March 18, 2008 at 2 PM in the Traffic Control Conference Room |
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