

PEDESTRIAN ISSUES IN WORK ZONES
TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING MINUTES
October 03, 2007

The technical group met on October 03, 2007 at 2 PM in the Traffic Control Conference Room, with the following in attendance:

Attendees

Joseph Ishak, PE - Chair
Jay Bennett, P.E.
Stuart Bourne, P.E.
Jennifer Evans, PE
Tris Ford
Bucky Galloway, PE
Elise Groundwater
Mitch Hendee, PE
Brad Hibbs, PE
Jennifer Portanova, PE
Keith Raulston, PE
Walt Thompson

Representing

Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Roadway Design Unit
Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Project Development and Environmental Analysis (PDEA)
PDEA – Public Involvement & Community Studies
Traffic Engineering Branch
Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Alternative Delivery Unit
FHWA
Work Zone Traffic Control Unit
Division 9 Construction
Productivity Services

The purpose of this meeting was for the technical groups to continue their discussions of Criteria, Procedure, Exceptions, and Education based on the updates since the last meeting. The updated documents are provided as an attachment to the meeting minutes. The committee was also provided an update on project B-3446. Below are comments that were discussed during the meeting:

Pilot Project B-3446

The committee has been following the progress of this project as the first example of a partnership between the Department and a public transportation agency to provide a shuttle for pedestrian traffic during construction. The bridge in Lexington will be closed during the first week in November 2007, and the Department has signed an agreement with the Davidson County Transportation System to provide a shuttle service for pedestrians. A public information campaign is currently being worked on to notify pedestrians of this service. This project will be used as a pilot project for this type of agreement and should be monitored. The committee discussed possible performance measures, such as collecting the number of participants or user surveys. During the meeting, the group discussed the following ways to collect surveys:

- Provide shuttle drivers with Questionnaire survey cards for shuttle users that could be collected by the shuttle driver on a regular basis
- Conduct telephone or on-line surveys targeted at shuttle users

Exception

The committee suggested revising the Exceptions so that the design waivers are approved by the Highway Administrator or Delegate to maintain consistency. It was decided that the committee needed to develop a format for the exception letter to ensure that “significant” is well defined in the request for a waiver.

Procedures

The small group presented a timeline for when a project will be evaluated for maintenance of pedestrian issues throughout the planning process. The timeline will be expanded to include a checklist item for field inspection meetings during the design process. Mitch Hendee will review the design-build process to determine where to address the pedestrian issue for design-build projects. Before the next committee meeting, the small group will meet to discuss how each of the documents that have been developed by the committee fit together.

Criteria

The committee suggested the following revisions to the flow chart:

- Move “Pedestrian counts...” Box to below “Is pedestrian detour available and ADA appropriate” position
- Revise language in “Pedestrian counts...” Box to “Perform Pedestrian counts – Are pedestrian counts and generators low – based on survey assessment?”
- Move the asterisk (*Survey should be conducted...) to below “Pedestrian Counts” Box or create a box to include this action at this location
- Revise “Is pedestrian detour available that is less than 1 mile long and ADA appropriate” to “Is there an acceptable detour available that is ADA compliant”

Education Plan

The small group presented an Education Plan that included the primary customers, message, method to communicate the message, and the schedule. The committee agreed that education would be the most critical piece to implementation of the new procedure. Listed below are additional ideas generated during the committee meeting to get the message out:

- Prioritize the most affected units and start there (Roadway, PDEA, WZTCU, Structures, etc)
- Consider communicating the message through “Distribution A” or online power point
- Consider combining efforts with the Work Zone Safety & Mobility Policy Education Campaign
- Consider a subgroup to do “Rodeo” or tour of training to various groups

Next Step

The next steps for the committee includes determining how the categories fit together and how this information will be presented for implementation. These two issues will be topics for the next meeting in November. Stuart Bourne will draft a policy/departmental statement as an introduction for the final product.

Action Items

- Small groups will continue working on categories and begin to think about how they fit together with other categories.
- Stuart Bourne will draft a policy/departmental statement as an introduction for the final product.
- The next meeting is November 28, 2007 at 2 PM in the Traffic Control Conference Room. However, the October 17, 2007 will be left on the calendar to provide the small groups an opportunity to meet during this time if necessary.