



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

March 31, 2006

MEMO TO:

Jonathan Bivens, PE	Dave Hinsley
Peter Bolton	Chris Howard
Steve DeWitt, PE	Berry Jenkins, PE
CA Gardner, PE	Michael Taylor
Brad Hibbs, PE	Brad Wall, PE

FROM: Meredith McDiarmid, PE, Work Zone Traffic Control Project Engineer

SUBJECT: Minutes for Meeting on Work Zone Certification Program

The above listed met on March 29, 2006 at 10am in the Century Center Work Zone Traffic Control Conference Room in Raleigh to discuss requirements of a Work Zone Certification Program. **Action items are recorded in bold.**

The first item of discussion was the contracting industry's general comments about the effect that a Work Zone Certification Program would have on the NCDOT. The industry feels the introduction of a certification program by the NCDOT intends to transfer risk and liability to the certified individual and their employer. The Department assured industry the intent of this program is to raise the bar of safety awareness and education in work zones to a level that would decrease the number of related crashes, not to transfer liability. Everyone on the committee agreed reduction of crashes and increased education was a common goal of industry and NCDOT and continued with discussions centered on those concepts.

Information on a similar program in Washington State DOT was presented. The available details of that program are similar to the program this committee is developing, with one exception. In Washington, they have a pay item for their Traffic Control Supervisor. The committee came to a consensus that developing a pay item in North Carolina would not necessarily enhance the program.

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A proposed draft of Work Zone Traffic Control qualification and training requirements was presented to the committee. After discussion of each qualification and requirement, the committee came to a consensus on the attached draft document. Such Work Zone Traffic Control qualification and training requirements would be required in all contracts and encroachment agreements. **Each committee member is to share this document with their respective industry and provide all comments back to Meredith McDiarmid by May 31st.** It was agreed that some type of protocol for the levels of requirements (could a WZTC Supervisor count as a WZTC Installer, could a WZTC Installer count as a WZTC Flagger, etc.) would be needed. **Meredith McDiarmid will work on developing a draft of this protocol.**

The last topic of discussion was the development of a marketing plan for the program. In other words, how is the committee going to get the word out to the smaller companies, utility companies, etc.? There were a few ideas mentioned including a notice to bidders and presentations at conferences. In order to develop such a plan, **all attendees should brainstorm on possible avenues of advertisement the Department can use to market the program and send those specific details to Meredith McDiarmid by April 7th.**

The group agreed to continue to meet to address these and other issues. Please review these minutes and bring all your comments to the next meeting on June 7, 2006 at 10:00am in the Traffic Control Conference Room in the Century Center in Raleigh.

If you have questions or comments on these minutes, feel free to contact me at (919) 250-4159.

MMM

Attachment

cc:

Jim Babcock
Victor Barbour, PE
Stuart Bourne, PE
Tawana Brooks, PE
Scott Capps, PE

Allen Gray
Joe Geigle
Kevin Hicks
David Hurley
Dennis Jernigan, PE
Jim Lowry

Robert Memory
Robby Ross
Sorrell Saunders
Joe Simpson
Jimmy Travis, PE
David West