



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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SECRETARY

August 15, 2005

MEMO TO: Jim Babcock
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Michael Taylor
Jimmy Travis, PE
Brad Wall, PE

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

SUBJECT: Minutes for meeting on Work Zone and Flagger Certification

The above listed met on August 10, 2005 at 10m in the Century Center Riverwood Conference Room in Raleigh to discuss the development of both a Work Zone and Flagger Certification program. We began the meeting with a brainstorming exercise to identify the group's goals for these certification programs. The following is a list of goals the group identified:

The group wants a certification program to:

- Increase safety, awareness, knowledge, and seriousness of the jobs requiring certification
- Be easy and friendly for all participants
- Foster traffic control consistency for projects statewide and on a national level for motorists that travel through our state
- Use existing training instead of creating something new
- Include on the job training as part of certification
- Include a way for a train the trainer concept
- Be verifiable and accountable
- Decrease crash history related to jobs requiring certification
- Include provisions for those with literacy challenges
- Include certification for all types of traffic control (pilot cars, traffic control installation, etc.)
- Be connected to the contractor's safety rating
- Consider legal aspects of having certification requirements
- Include certified persons who speak English
- Allow for continuing education for interested parties

Meredith McDiarmid shared with the group that approximately one flagger a month is involved in a work zone crash according to NCDOT statistics. Considering those statistics, the group agreed a certification program was warranted.

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Next, the group brainstormed on how we could achieve our goals. We came up with the following list of possibilities:

- Use a tiered approach where there would be different levels of certification as the specific job warranted
- Look at what other States have done towards certification
- Outsource training
- Make the program measurable
- Include public education (DMV, Driver's Education, etc.)
- Use police presence in work zones
- Training comes to user as needed
- Develop a crash reporting system to be able to track specific crash statistics
- Establish time frame for re-certification
- Make training available by more than one source
- Establish a time line for certification implementation
- Flexibility in testing to allow more than one way to demonstrate competency

Lastly, the entire group agreed to continue to meet to tackle these issues. We decided to begin with Work Zone Certification and move towards flagger and traffic control installer certification. The Work Zone Traffic Control Unit will develop a proposal for Work Zone Certification and send it out to all parties for review before the next meeting on September 1, 2005 in the Riverwood Conference Room just inside Door B3 of the Century Center in Raleigh.

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

MMM

cc: Victor Barbour, PE
Joe Geigle, PE
Allen Gray
Berry Jenkins, PE
Jim Lowry