

Work Zone Safety Task Force
Meeting #8
Thursday, March 12, 2026

Meeting Summary

1. Updates

- a. **Moving Work Zones** Sub Task Force – Jeannie Silver provided an update that the group met a number of times with contractors, counties and DOT to determine how to mitigate pavement marking operations crashes. A project will be piloted this summer. Two different alert systems will also be piloted this summer. One is a LIDAR system that alerts the driver and the crew and the other is a TMA driver activated system. There are additional systems the group is looking into piloting in 2027.
- b. **WTBA Work Zone Flagger Video** – looking at other states for ideas on developing a new flagger video. If anyone has some ideas of who (companies, counties, etc.) may be interested in working with them. Looking to create the video this year so it is ready for the 2027 construction season. Contact Erin Schwark and she will get you into contact with the correct contacts.
- c. **Gas Station PSA** – Planning to have more PSAs this year. Very well received along the I-41 corridor in the NE Region. Planning to work with Gas Station TV and Kwik Trip again. Still working within WIDOT on funding.
- d. **Ariel Enforcement** – NW, SW and NE Region conducted a number of aerial enforcement details and are planning to do additional ones for this construction season to target aggressive driving.

2. Review of WZSTF Survey for 2026 – 36 responses. Most survey responses leaned towards quarterly to twice a year for taskforce meetings. Top four topics to focus on were speed safety cameras, smart work zones, law enforcement presence and maintenance of devices.

3. Focus Areas for 2026 –

- a. Determine volunteers for each priority
 - i. **Speed Safety Cameras** – Governors Council on Work Zone Safety has been discussing this topic at length, so hopefully this stakeholder group can gain some momentum. Elise Nelson can provide an update at the next meeting and also see how this effort has come along especially with the work zone safety pilots. May be helpful to collect speeds in some work zones this year to help support the effort. Iowa County may be interested in collecting speed data in one of their projects. NE Region has been collecting speed information in their smart work zones.
<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/04/drake/media/5vqmcvz5/vz-action-plan-traffic-safety-cameras-infographic.pdf>
 - ii. **Smart Work Zones**
 1. Iowa County is wondering if the systems are information overload for drivers.
 2. NE Region has experienced some software glitches, false activations, solar power in winter. The project makes a lot of field adjustments based on ramp spacing/merging/diverging.
 3. SE Region has similar issues as NE Region and has struggled keeping track of all the devices.
 4. BTO has noticed some reduction in rear end crashes

5. Erin Schwark will look at other states and talk with some vendors on how to deal with the issues.

iii. **Law Enforcement** – speed in work zones, presence in work zone, driver behavior in work zones, aerial speed enforcement. Have 20 mitigation contracts on higher speed facilities to add law enforcement support to the work zones. From LE, it is challenging to pull out into the work zone and enforce the work zone; staging in the work zone is critical to accommodate LE. Andi Bill would like to pull a group of law enforcement together to discuss these issues and try to address. If anyone is interested in work on this group, let Erin or Andi know.

iv. **Maintenance of Traffic Control Devices** – how to perform maintenance on special types of intersections such as RCUTs, DDIs, or other specialized intersections under traffic. WisDOT just updated the Work Zone Field Manual and planning to hold trainings in the future. Quality and consistency of temporary traffic control remains an issue. Issues with contractors addressing issues in a timely manner

b. Next Steps – will report out at the next meeting on these focus areas.

4. Next Meeting: June 2026

a. **Work Zone Awareness Week April 20-24**

b. **WisDOT Signing, Marking, Work Zone Vendor Day, April 30 at Madison Sign Shop**

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 Meeting

March 12, 2026

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Virtual via TEAMS

- **Microsoft Teams meeting**
- **Join:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2293213013851?p=q4Anrccp89ynfoxYaP>
- Meeting ID: 229 321 301 385 1
- Passcode: xP2n2gQ9



Overview

- Updates
- Review of WZSTF Survey for 2026
- Identify Top Priorities for 2026
 - Determine volunteers for each priority
 - Next Steps
- WZAW/Vendor Days/WZ Safety Pilot Project



Updates

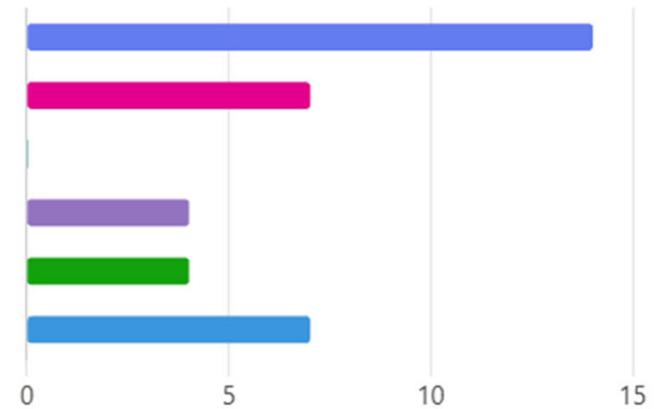
- Moving Work Zone Sub-Task Force
- WTBA Work Zone Flagger Video
- Gas Station PSA
- Aerial Enforcement



36 Responses

1. Who do you work for?

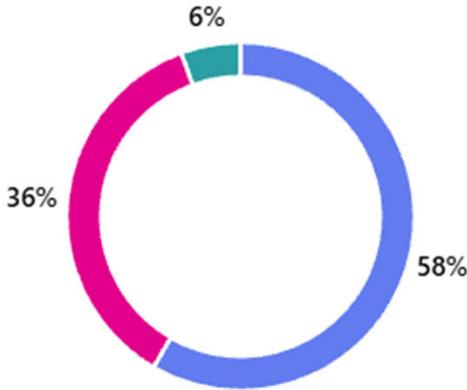
● Wisconsin Department of Transportation	14
● Contractor	7
● Utility	0
● County Highway Department	4
● Consultant	4
● Other	7



WZSTF – Quarterly Meetings

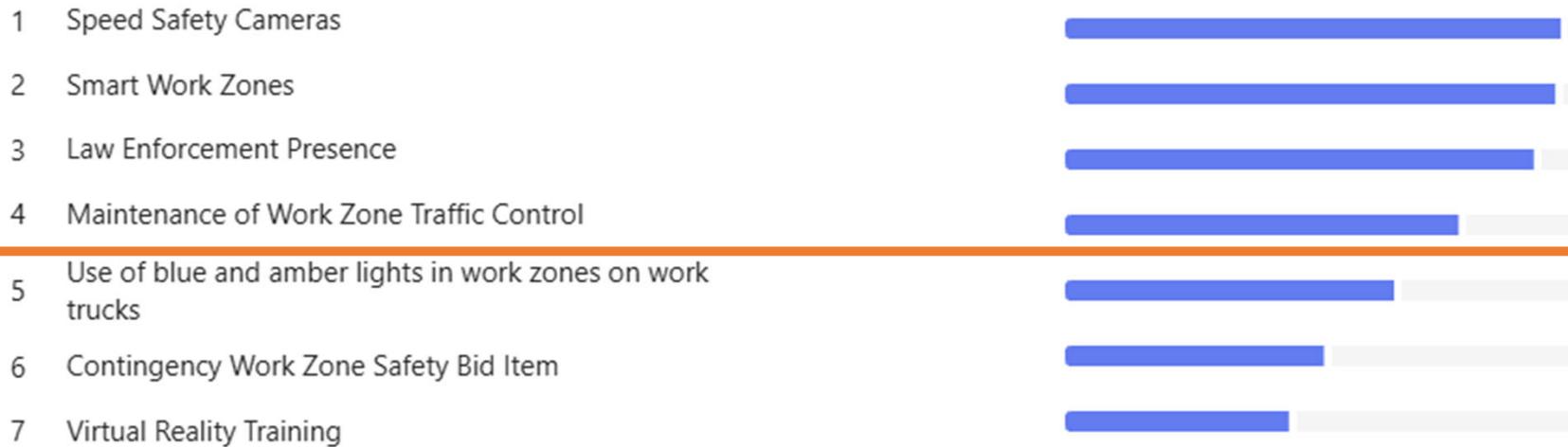
2. How often should the Work Zone Safety Task Force Meet?

● Quarterly	21
● Two Times a Year	13
● Yearly	2



WZSTF – Focus on Top Four Topics

3. Rank the following topics in order of preference for the WZSTF to look into (1 being most preferred/needed/importantly)



Speed Safety Cameras

- Open Discussion

- Who should lead this effort?
- Barriers to implementation?
- Who should be involved in discussions?
- <https://workzonesafety.org/topics-of-interest/smart-work-zones/>
- 20 states allow for speed safety cameras
- Gov Safety Council working on this at length, next meeting in May
- Elise report back with an update later fall,

Laws and Legislation That A

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut (See Sec. 13
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York
- Oregon (ORS 810.441 & C
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington



Smart Work Zones

- Open Discussion

- What are the issues with smart work zones?
- New ideas?
- How can we make them better?
- County operations – 2 lane closures, moving operations
- IH 41 – software glitches, vermac, sensors, triggering, false activations, struggles with power in winter, field adjustments based on ramp spacing/merges/diverges
- IH 94 – similar issues as IH 41 project, one arrow board concern



Law Enforcement

- Open Discussion
 - Speed in work zones
 - Presence in work zone
 - Driver behavior in work zones
 - Aerial Speed Enforcement
 - Andi - Pull outs, how do we make LE feel safe out there? motorcycles
 - Brandon - Challenging to pull out into the work zone and enforce the work zone.
 - Staging in the work zone is critical to accommodate LE

Maintenance of Traffic Control Devices

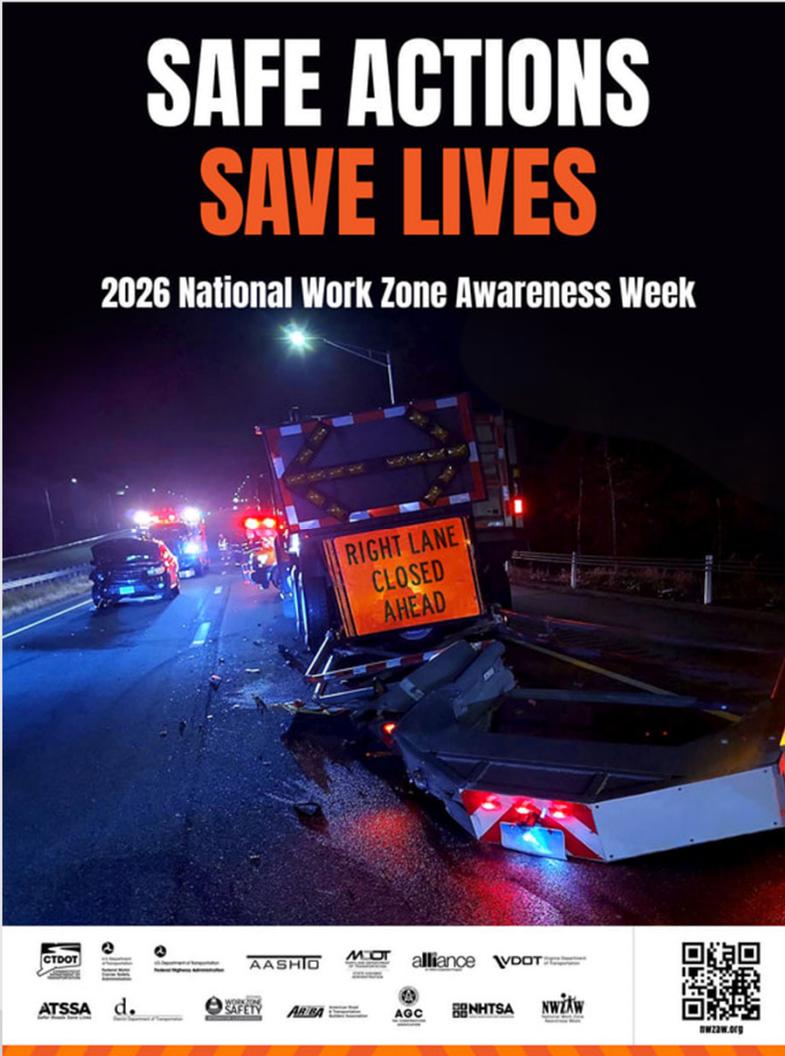
- special types of intersections such as RCUTs, DDIs, or other specialized intersections under traffic
 - Brown Deer Road
- Quality, consistency – counties, contractors, utilities,
- Contractors not addressing issues in a timely manner
 - Surveillance bid ITEM in the past
 - No mechanism to force them to come out to the job, just not paying for devices or holding payment

Work Zone Awareness Week

Monday, April 20	Tuesday, April 21	Wednesday, April 22	Thursday, April 23	Friday, April 24
Work Zone Safety Training Day	National Kickoff Event, host Connecticut DOT	Go Orange Day	Social Media Storm	Moment of Silence

• WisDOT Planned Events

- Monday, April 20: Statewide Event
 - IH 41 Corridor in NER
- Wednesday, April 22: Go Orange Day
- Friday, April 24: Moment of Silence
- All Week – Light the Hoan Orange



Signing, Marking & Work Zone VENDOR DAY 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH
8 AM TO 1 PM

MADISON SIGN SHOP - 3609 PIERSTORFF ST

Product Manufacturers & Vendors Showcasing
New and Existing Products for
Wisconsin DOT Staff, Consultants, Contractors and Counties

No registration required for attendees. Just stop by!

Optional short training sessions offered at SW Region Madison Office
Rock Conference Room (2101 Wright St):

Time slot	Topic & Presenter	Who should attend?
8:30-9:30	Bead Overview by Potters	Counties
9:30-10:30	Paint Overview by Ennis	Counties
10:30-11:00	Marking Design & Product Overview by BTO	Contractors, Regions, PDS
11:00-12:00	Marking Construction by BTO	Contractors, Regions, PDS



WZ Safety Pilot Project - Flagging

> WHAT?

The pilot program evaluates the effectiveness of enhanced work zone safety in rural highway improvement projects.

- 2025-2027 biennial budget one-time appropriation of \$600,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.
- Crews to implement strategies such as speed feedback trailers, automated flagger assistance devices, digital speed limit trailers, connected work zone devices and law enforcement mitigation.
- Collaboration with Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association (WTBA).

> WHEN?

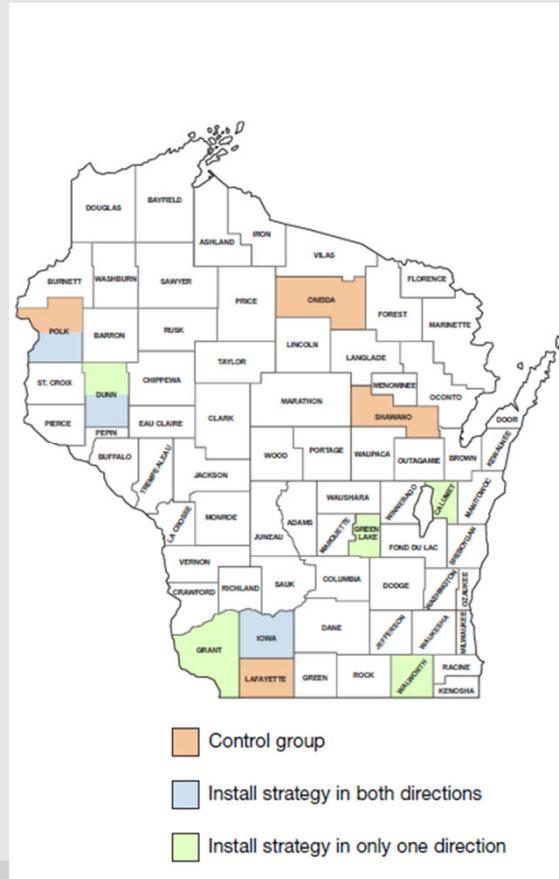
Construction projects will take place between April and October 2026 with a final report completed in late 2026.

> WHY?

Safety is a key priority for WisDOT and our industry partners, especially in work zones. This pilot program helps WisDOT evaluate existing strategies to improve worker safety on rural highways in Wisconsin.

> HOW?

WisDOT is under contract with Traffic Analysis & Design, Inc. (TADI) to collect data and develop the report.



> WHERE?

At least one project from each of WisDOT's five regions was selected for a good sample set of traffic and driver behavior.

Highway	Limits	County
WIS 80	County I near Highland to WIS 133 west of Avoca	Iowa
US 12	WIS 29 to Princeton Drive near Elk Mound	Dunn
WIS 40	US 12 north of Elk Mound to County M near Colfax	Dunn
WIS 46	US 8 near Balsam Lake to WIS 35 in Milltown	Polk
WIS 85	County O west of Rock Falls to 1010th Street near Rock Creek	Dunn
WIS 81	School Street to County Y northeast of Cassville	Grant
WIS 32/57	Altona Avenue near New Holstein to US 151 in Chilton	Calumet
WIS 23	County A near Green Lake east to Fond du Lac County line	Green Lake
WIS 59	west Walworth County line to Willis Ray Road near Whitewater	Walworth

Four WisDOT projects will be studied as control without these traffic control strategies:

Highway	Limits	County
WIS 78	Lien Court in Blanchardville to County H south of Daleyville	Lafayette
US 45	US 8 near Monico to WIS 32 in Three Lakes	Oneida
WIS 156	WIS 47 west of Briarton to WIS 55 near Rose Lawn	Shawano
US 8	WIS 35 N east of St. Croix Falls to WIS 46 S in Apple River	Polk

Next Meeting

- June 2026
- Meeting Minutes Posted Online:
 - <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/traffic-ops/programs/workzone/workzone.aspx>



WZSTF – Interested in Helping

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