

Work Zone Safety Task Force

Meeting #9

Thursday, July 14, 2026

Meeting Summary

1. Mobile Barrier MBT-1 Presentation and Discussion
 - a. Kevin K. Groeneweg, Chairman & CEO (kevin@mobilebarriers.com)
 - b. Kevin provided an overview of the mobile barriers but all information can be found online (<https://www.mobilebarriers.com/>). It's an alternative to cones/TMA to get work done near active lanes. It's highly mobile (basically a semi) and strong (don't typically need a buffer lane). It's typically 5' high but height can be added. The barrier can also carry materials and supplies to the jobsite and additional equipment can be added (hot box, scissor lift, crane, etc.). It can be hit a number of times without being damaged. It's all very modular if things get damaged or needs to be customized.
2. Road Defender Presentation and Discussion
 - a. Carolin Ross (Carolin@thesmartcone.com) & Jason Lee (Jason@thesmartcone.com)
 - b. <https://thesmartcone.com/>
 - c. The technology looks upstream of a work zone for potential threats (approx. ¼ mile down road) in traffic and provides early warning to workers. No training needed, workers wear watches and flashing beacons for detection and notification. This runs on Bluetooth and wi-fi.
3. Moving Work Zone - Task Force Update
 - a. Mixed feelings on the alert system test pilots as the driver activated warning can either be used too often (false warning) or not enough. The Lidar activated alarm is being used by a county and will get an update in the future.
 - b. For special markings, there has been a request to provide traffic control plans in the epoxy lets to help the crews.
4. Flagging
 - a. WZ Safety Flagging Pilot Update – BTO has a project with TADI for data collection/evaluation and are starting to conduct project team interviews to get feedback on how the flagging strategies are working on projects. Should be able to provide an update at next task force meeting
 - b. Flagging Handbook – WisDOT BTO is working on an update to the 2020 handbook and flagger certification
 - c. Flagging Video – WTBA working with BTO and Iowa County on getting scenarios set for a flagging video. Looking at end of July/early August to film.
5. 2026 Work Zone Field Manual – published and sent out in spring 2026.
 - a. Added distance charts to layouts, incorporated WMTUCD updates, added lane closure detail updates and updated flagging distance requirement from 3500' to 1000'.
6. Work Zone Safety & Mobility Rule Discussion – WisDOT has been working on the implementation of Federal mobility rule requirements. Some items are the requirement of work zone performance measures and worker protection devices. Updates to TEOpS 6-1-2 and FDM 11-50-35 will be published soon. Timeline for implementation is below:

Timeline

23 CFR, Part 630, Subpart J & K

- November 2021, IIJA
 - Update to Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule, Subpart J
- October 2023, NPRM 23 CFR Part 630 Subparts J & K
 - Most focus on Subpart J
- December 2024, Published to Federal Register
- June 2025, First FHWA webinar explaining new rule
- December 31st, 2025 Policy updates to Subpart K
- January, 2026 WisDOT publishes TEOpS 6-1-2, updated June with FHWA approval
- November PS&E 2026 first projects for Subpart K compliance
- December 2026 Policy Updates for Subpart J

7. Updates

- a. Smart Work Zones – Erin Schwark has met with a number of project teams on how we can improve standard specifications. Working on an update with the fall STSP updates.
- b. Maintenance of Temporary Traffic Control – Andy Heidtke – no updates
- c. Law Enforcement in Work Zones – Andi Bill – no updates

8. Open Discussion

- a. How can we get work zone speed limits into the mapping systems/apps (Waze, Google, etc.)? WisDOT pulls in speeds through Work Zone Data Exchange project; however big mapping companies haven't been very flexible on these requests. This is a nationwide issue.

9. Next Meeting: October – date TBD

Website/Meeting Minutes: [Wisconsin Department of Transportation Work Zones](#)

Listserv Sign-Up: content.dot.wi.gov/content/lyris/ops-manuals.htm