

Public Roads

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For more information, see Preventing Pavement Failure Caused by Hot-Mix Asphalt Temperature Differentials: Washington State's Systematic Approach online at <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews246rpo.pdf>.

Transportation Research Board

Public Information And Information Exchange

Implementation Guidance Now Available for the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule

FHWA has completed a series of four implementation guides and a resource CD to help State departments of transportation and other transportation agencies understand and implement the provisions of the updated Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility. Published in September 2004 in the Federal Register (23 CFR 630 Subpart J), the rule is intended to help transportation agencies consider the broader safety and mobility impacts of work zones throughout project delivery, and to guide implementation of appropriate strategies to manage those impacts. All State and local governments that receive Federal-aid highway funding are required to comply with the rule's provisions by October 12, 2007.

The four guides cover a variety of topics and are titled "Implementing the Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility"; "Developing and Implementing Transportation Management Plans for Work Zones"; "Work Zone Public Information and Outreach Strategies"; and "Work Zone Impacts Assessment: An Approach to Assess and Manage Work Zone Safety and Mobility Impacts of Road Projects." The guides are available online at www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule.htm, in hardcopy, and on the resource CD. The CD also contains other rule implementation tools, such as an implementation checklist, a matrix of work zone management strategies, and answers to frequently asked questions.

To order hardcopies of the guides or the CD, please send an e-mail to workzonepubs@fhwa.dot.gov, with the name of the products requested, quantity, and shipping instructions. For more information, contact Tracy Scriba in the FHWA Office of Operations at 202-366-0855 or tracy.scriba@dot.gov.

U.S. 285 Environmental Study Honored With National Award

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recently recognized the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) with a "Notable Practices Award" for an environmental assessment (EA) on U.S. 285. CDOT Chief Engineer Pam Hutton presented the award to Region One's Regional Transportation Director Jeff Kullman at the Colorado Transportation Commission's monthly meeting in December 2006. Offered on behalf of AASHTO's Center for Environmental Excellence, the award recognizes best practices in context sensitive solutions (CSS).

CDOT initiated the project in 2001 to examine and recommend safety and mobility improvements for U.S. 285

between the towns of Conifer and Fairplay. CDOT worked cooperatively throughout the process to avoid or minimize impacts on wetlands and historic properties.

The process was so successful in building public support and minimizing environmental impacts that CDOT and FHWA agreed to downgrade the project from an environmental impact statement

to an EA. In addition, AASHTO's CSS competition panel commended CDOT's "great multidisciplinary team, good communication tools, and use of wildlife crossings."



Carrier & Burgess, Inc.

CDOT's decision to implement a grade-separated intersection rather than a much larger diamond or cloverleaf interchange resulted in a CSS that respected the existing rural and mountainous character of this valley on U.S. 285.

CDOT

Toll-Free Number Connects Workers With Construction Opportunities

The Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Office of Civil Rights recently opened a toll-free, bilingual phone line that provides Oregonians with information about employment and apprenticeship opportunities with ODOT's contractors on highway construction projects. When callers dial 1-877-972-5700, they hear a greeting and have the option to leave a message in English or Spanish. Within 48 hours, they will hear back from a civil rights specialist in their area with information about beginning a career in highway construction.

Oregon is facing a shortage of qualified highway workers for apprentice and skilled journey-level positions, and ODOT officials concede that the process for entering the construction industry can be challenging. The department is facilitating that process for job seekers through its Workforce Development Plan.

Through regional alliances statewide, ODOT is building a qualified labor pool to work on highway and bridge construction projects, which are reaching record levels. Across the State, ODOT is engaged in major construction projects to improve highway infrastructure, including projects in the \$1.3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) III State Bridge Delivery Program. The bridge program, part of ODOT's 10-year, \$3 billion OTIA, is replacing and repairing hundreds of aging highway bridges.

"The new toll-free number gives people a simple, direct line of communication," says Michael Cobb, manager of ODOT's Office of Civil Rights. "Now anyone, anywhere in the State, can receive personal guidance about construction opportunities in their area."

ODOT