

Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee

Corrected and Updated

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2003

Inn of the 7th Mountain, Bend, Oregon

Members Present: Joseph Marek, Chair, Clackamas County; Eric Niemeyer, Vice Chair, Jackson County; Ed Fischer, Secretary, ODOT State Traffic Engineer; Jim Rentz, Oregon State Police; Charles Radosta, ITE/Kittelson & Associates; Robin Lewis, City of Bend; Cynthia Schmitt, Marion County; Mike Coleman for Rob Burchfield, City of Portland

Members Absent: Bill Ciz, ODOT Region 1; Rob Burchfield, City of Portland; Randall Wooley, City of Beaverton;

Others Present: John Irwin, JRH Engineering; Terry Hockett, City of Salem; Karen Giese, Kittelson & Associates; Mary Kate Koonce, Group Mackenzie; Tony Tirico, Michael Magee, Deborah Hogan, City of Bend; Eric Graves, CTS Engineers; Robert Morast, Washington County; Robert Kortt, RDK Engineering; Dave Rouse, City of Gresham; Massoud Saberian, Berger/ABAM; John Deskins, NWS Traffic Engineering; Xavier Falconi, Falconi Consulting; Gary Judd, Deschutes County; Jim Jirek, Bill Brownlee, Marion County; Jan Gipson, Chris Monsere, Julia Wellner, Doug Bish, Paul Davis, ODOT Traffic Management Section; Richard McSwain, Private; Jennifer John, Portland Metro

Introduction/Approval of March 21, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Joseph Marek gavelled the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. Chair Marek asked for additional agenda items and Gary Judd indicated he had one. Charles Radosta then moved, Cindy Schmitt seconded, and the committee voted approval of the March 21, 2003 meeting minutes.

Old Business

Short Term Traffic Control Handbook Update

Jan Gipson updated the committee on progress of the book, which is available on ODOT's website. The link to the website is: [http://www.odot.state.or.us/traffic/draftstwz/stwz\(draft\).htm](http://www.odot.state.or.us/traffic/draftstwz/stwz(draft).htm). She said she had a few more sections almost ready to go, one on urban streets and intersections which includes all multi-lane roads except freeways, another short section for survey crews, and the final section on incident and event management for which the drawings are still being worked up. She referred to a handout on roundabouts in reference to the incident and event management section. The committee discussed challenges with work zone traffic control in roundabouts. Jan asked for feedback as to whether the handouts cover the type of work and closures on roundabouts as well as review and concurrence with the greater draft publication.

The committee discussed possible subcommittee makeup and working strategy, and timeline for review and approval of the publication. Review of chapters on the website above was divided up among interested committee members.

✓ Action Item: Committee members will work with the review on the assigned chapters as follows:

1. Everyone -- General Standards and Principles section
2. ODOT and Marion County -- Mobile Operations section
3. Jackson County -- Very Short Duration Operations section
4. Clackamas County -- Rural Roads section
5. Cities of Bend, Portland and Kittelson Associates -- Urban Streets and Intersections section
6. ODOT and OSP -- Freeways, Expressways and Ramps section
7. ODOT and OSP -- Nighttime Operations section
8. City of Beaverton -- Survey section
9. Marion County -- Incident & Event Management section

✓ Jan Gipson will process, edit and update the committee at the July meeting.

Proposed Rule Change CFR – Work Zone Safety & Mobility (Section-by-Section Discussion)

Jan Gipson introduced the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the Federal Register on the subject as well as supplemental material Nick Fortey forwarded. Nick was unable to attend the meeting. Essentially the FHWA is looking at formalizing into the CFR that planning for work zones include planning for work zone safety *and* mobility, addressing impacts on road users, workers and other affected parties. This will expand TCP's to include addressing sustained traffic operations and management. FHWA says it will provide some flexibility in implementation depending on the work to be performed and its impact on safety and mobility. All jurisdictions are encouraged to review the proposals and submit comments electronically in the docket at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. The committee discussed the implications of the proposed rulemaking and agreed to put it on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

✓ This will be on the agenda for further discussion at the July meeting.

Variable Message Sign Regulatory Messages

Jan Gipson discussed a topic brought up by Bob Fynn regarding Snow Zone signing on VMS signs in the pass and whether they are legal as regulatory signing. Nothing in the MUTCD or statutes appears to specifically preclude using VMS signing for regulatory messages. ODOT is also looking at variable speed zoning in work zones, including night work and paving applications. ODOT is asking for a formal AG opinion on the issue. This will be primarily an enforcement and judicial issue more than a traffic engineering issue – will officers enforce such signing and will judges back them up? The signs should be the same black on white colors as static signs. Whether police can be aware of what the signs say as they change and documenting message changes for court cases was discussed. Publicity campaigning is an element of the planning. Extensive use of VMS regulatory signing such as is done in Europe would involve a substantial investment in infrastructure.

✓ Action Item: After the AG's opinion has been obtained, use of VMS for Regulatory Messages will be placed on a future OTCDC agenda.

New Business

Yellow/Green Pavement Markings

Joe Marek brought this agenda item to the committee after a vendor talked to their operations people relating the notion that they are already okay for use. His research revealed that FHWA has only okayed the markings for testing with all the attendant research and reporting requirements. They are to be used in conjunction with fluorescent yellow/green signing for crosswalks for schools and bikes. FHWA expects the colored markings to supplement standard white crosswalk markings. Joe wanted folks to be aware of this new marking in case the subject comes up in local jurisdictions.

Legislative Update

Ed Fischer briefly reviewed a handout of current legislative initiatives that the Traffic Management Section is interested in and current status in the Legislature.

Update to Sign Policy & Guidelines

Julia Wellner briefed the committee on proposed updates to the Sign Policy and Guidelines. A clarification was suggested to specify "the State Traffic Engineer" rather than just "the Traffic Engineer" on Historic Trail Signing Guidelines. Ed Fischer suggested this may be an issue elsewhere in the publication. Charles Radosta moved approval of the updates as amended, Cindy Schmitt seconded, and the committee approved the motion.

✓ Action Item: Julia Wellner will look into use of the term "The Traffic Engineer" in the Sign Policy and Guidelines, considering that it may not always need to come to the State Traffic Engineer and report back to the committee.

Post-Meeting Note: The sign update amendment approved by the Committee (to allow the use of LEFT or RIGHT as appropriate, on 4 signs containing such wording) resulted in the combination of NEXT RIGHT and NEXT LEFT signs as Sign #O17-22(R & L). The NEXT EXIT sign number has been changed to O17-23.

Non-Agenda Items

Gary Judd asked for feedback on the use of a Share the Road sign assembly consisting of the word message and a symbol sign of a car and bike riding parallel. The committee discussed whether the symbol sign by itself conveyed a clear message. The committee agreed that more research was needed on if this is a good combination and where it might be advisable to utilize it. The possibility of other user groups than bikes was brought up. The committee asked that Gary look further into the sign assembly.

Eric Niemeyer asked about the status of dealing with non-functioning traffic signals and the committee agreed that the subcommittee of Eric, Cindy Schmitt Joe Marek and Robin Lewis should be working on it for possible future legislation.

The committee adjourned at approximately 11:45.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 18th, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marion County Shops.