

TCOC Minutes

WSDOT Kent Maintenance Facility

October 14, 2014

In attendance were:

Tina Bacon, John Bair, Michelle Bemis, Rob Carrington, Michael Flanagan, Steve Haapala, Semilla Sanchez, Robin Smith, Sue Smith, Ernst Stahn, Eric Tofte, Mike Warren, Mike Roberts, and Debra Kellard.

Ernst Stahn from WDOT Safety Office called the meeting to order at 12:31p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes were reviewed from teleconference meeting on July 8, 2014 and approved. (Sue Smith motioned and seconded by Robin Smith)

MOU Discussion:

This has been a long process as the MOU has not been revised, or updated since 1995. Although the Committee has had numerous drafts, discussions and suggestions for changes, in the last several years, nothing has been approved by all signing parties. One suggestion was an instructor shall have prior flagging experience of, at least, 1,000 hours. Ernst stated that DOT has a problem with Flagging Instructors having to have the field experience, as this limits number of good instructors. There was much discussion about this matter and everyone seemed to agree that a "good" instructor shouldn't need the field experience though it does give them credibility. Mike Warren said his instructors go through rigorous annual adult based learning and he has 3 instructors, so far, who are ANSI accredited. This still limits other agencies that do not have this in place. There was much discussion about having a new Instructor do "co-teaching" Although it was agreed this would be beneficial, Tina brought up a great point: How would we oversee this and who would be able to do these classes when needed? It was decided that the Flagging Instructor Course should be longer so it would include, at least, a 30 "teach back" as part of the mandatory curriculum. The previous Instructor Class was a minimum of 14 hours and was suggested to

be changed to, at least, 21 hours as to include the previous. Robin suggested that a review of the latest ADA Requirements be a part of the curriculum. It was also stated that the WZ TC Guidelines (M54-44) be removed from the MOU because DOT is no longer requiring it as part of the TCS curriculum. Steve stated that anyone can download it from WSDOT website if they choose.

Everyone agreed that to become a Flagging Instructor, the applicant shall successfully complete the WSDOT TCS class, have a current WA State Flagging Card, and complete a Flagging Instructor Course authorized by the TCOC.

Steve Haapala was concerned that applicants were receiving TCS CARDS. The applicants are only receiving the paper certificate of completion, or Traffic Control Technician Card, which neither is valid to use as a TCS card. Completing the TCS course is a requirement to be a flagging instructor but being a TCS cardholder is not.

Michael Flanagan suggested the new MOU be reviewed, at least every 5 years and be updated as necessary.

At this time a vote was held for changes to be approved and was unanimous except for Labor and Industries. Debra Kellard (L&I/DOSH) deferred vote until she spoke to her Director.

ELECTRONIC VOTING/CONFERENCING

Ernst suggested this be a consideration due to the fact that some members travel quite far to these meetings and other times there is not much to discuss. Motion to pass by Sue Smith and seconded by Michael Flanagan.

WAC 296-155-305

Robin reported due to the fact that she took the summer off, she respectfully apologized for not following through with this matter. Robin asked Debra if she could forward her the form she needs and she will get this matter back on track. The **safety** concern is the “buffer chart” (table 2 WAC 296-155-305 part E) is over 15 years old and is only about half the distance of the recommended Federal

MUTCD standards. There are multiple other updates to be made, as well, but this is the most concerning.

ROUNDTABLE:

Mike Roberts said he will also mention the outdated WAC in another committee. He is unsure why it is in the Utilities code (45) as well.

Steve mentioned the use of "Spotters" is no longer used on DOT projects or in the 2014 Spec. book. No reason to put someone in harm's way for no reason. This is a TC spotter, not a spotter used to back trucks/equipment.

Robin asked Steve if he had made changes about "Freeway" TCS requirements. Steve stated at this time DOT had not, but he would like to see it in the future. Steve also stated he thinks flaggers should just flag until they have experience to set up a TCP.

Debra said she still thinks there should be a class between the flagging and TCS. There are just too many folks out there getting thrown on roadways (non DOT projects) that don't have any experience with device set up. Robin stated this is a class we (Laborers) implemented in the State of Utah and it has been extremely successful.

Michael mentioned he has seen more and more non compliant devices out there. This has been an ongoing issue and will be brought up again at next meeting.

Sue talked about the passing of Glen Puterbaugh. She had Ernst send out an email in August to see if anyone wanted to donate to a charity on his behalf. She was extremely disappointed that only 3 people responded. Glen was an asset to our Committee for many years and is still greatly missed. There were a few members who had sent things prior to email and on their own. If anyone still wants to contribute, it is not too late.

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 2:53

Next meeting January 13, 2015

Respectfully submitted:

Robin Smith (NW Laborers Employers Training Trust)