2026 National Work Zone Management Conference

Sheraton Reston, Reston, Va.

October 27-29



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — **Optional Workshop - Advancing Nighttime Work Zone Visibility and Safety**

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov, FHWA Office of Operations

Introduction to Nighttime Visibility, FHWA Office of Safety
- Serena Liu and Julie Stotleymeyer

Introduction to EDC-8, FHWA Office of Operations
- Jawad Paracha and Martha Kapitanov

Break 10:20-10:30 a.m.

Nighttime Temporary Traffic Control Strategies, ATSSA
- Tim Luttrell

Worker Health and Safety, ARTBA
- Bradley Sant and Robinson Vasquez

12:30-1:20 p.m. — **Luncheon, Welcome Remarks and Keynote Presentation**

Moderator: Bradley Sant, ARTBA

Keynote: Mark Kehrli, Director, Office of Transportation Operations, FHWA

1:30-2:20 p.m. — **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Speed Safety Camera Update

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Steven Schrock, Kansas University; Skip Powe, Alabama Road Builders Association; Dudley Smith, AL-DOT; Rebecca Gibson-Schott, NY-DOT; Steve Frisbee, ARDOT

This panel discussion will review the latest developments and nuanced uses of speed safety cameras in work zones, from pilot to permanent programs.

Topic: Lessons Learned in Constructability and Impacts on Work Zone Safety

Moderator: Melisa Finley

Presenter: Carlos J. Rodriguez, Kittelson

This session covers real life situations on TX-DOT construction projects and will highlight the impacts on constructing roadways or bridges, the challenges witnessed, and the resolutions made to keeping the public and workers safe.

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: State Implementation of FHWA's Work Zone Regulations

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Brian Worrel IA-DOT; Skylar Knickerbocker, ITRNS; Dustin Wiggins, TX-DOT; Laura Huizinga, Lindsay

This session will share information on implementation of FHWA's updated standard on Subparts J and K, including positive protection.

Topic: Best Practices for Work Site Access and Egress

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov

Presenters: Melisa Finley, TTI; Jason Quicksall, TN-DOT; Bruce Martin, VA-DOT

This session will share information from research and best practices related to work zone access and egress activities.

3:30-4 p.m. **Exhibits**

4-5 p.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Work Zone Intrusion Prediction

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov

Presenters: John Gambatese, Oregon State University; Chuma Nnaji, Texas A&M University

This presentation will share findings from the NCHRP 17-107 study about work zone intrusion influence factors and prediction resources.

Topic: Reducing or Eliminating Flagger Exposure to Traffic and Struck-by Incidents

Moderator: Robinson Vasquez

Presenters: Todd Pfeiffer, CRH; Bruce Martin, VA-DOT

This presentation focuses on practical approaches to reducing flagger exposure through a layered strategy that combines policy, field practices, work zone enhancement, training, technology pilots and innovation.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

7-7:45 a.m. **Breakfast**

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Exhibits**

8-8:50 a.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Do Work Zone Warning Messages Actually Change Motorist Behavior

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Chris Engelbrecht, MO-DOT; Amber Trueblood, CPWR

This session will look at research to determine how driver behavior is impacted when worker presence technology is used.

Topic: Work Zone Safety Challenges for the Utility Industry

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov

Presenters: Todd Gallaher, Southern California Edison; Mike Starner, NECA; Tarn Goelling, IBEW

This session focuses on strengthening collaboration across the utility industry, transportation agencies, contractors, and other stakeholders to improve roadway work zone safety.

9-10 a.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Smart Work Zone Systems

Moderator: Isabel George

Presenters: Zachary Clark, NC-DOT; Kelly Wells, NC-DOT

This session will review two recent efforts completed by NCDOT – evaluation of the safety and mobility benefits of dynamic zipper merge systems and the Automating Actionable Road Anomalies (AARA) traveler information system that provides hands free, eyes free actionable work zone alerts to motorists.

Topic: Intrusion Prevention Technology Evaluations

Moderator: Melisa Finley

Presenters: Chuma Nnaji, TTI; John Gambatese, Oregon State University; Sogand Hasanzadeh, Purdue University

This session will cover the latest technologies under development or in practice that provide advanced warnings and protection to prevent intrusions into roadway construction zones.

10-10:30 a.m. **Exhibits**

10:30-11:20 a.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety in Work Zones

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov

Presenters: Jack Kong, TTI; Justin Jones, FMCSA; Caitlin Mackay, MI-DOT

This session will share information about recent research on commercial motor vehicle safety in work zones and why consideration for CMVs is critical.

Topic: The Continuing Evolution of Internal Traffic Control

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Travis Parsons, LHSFNA; Mandy Kustra, Ajax Paving Florida; Sammy Salazar, TX-DOT; Brian A. Rizzo, OSHA

This session will discuss the importance of Internal Traffic Control Plans to reduce struck-by incidents caused by construction trucks and vehicles inside the work area of a work zone, and how contractors, agencies, and others are working to educate the industry about them.

11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. ***Topic: Nighttime Work Zone Safety***

Moderator: Martha Kapitanov

Presenters: Brian Williams, VTTI; Nancy Avery, VT-DOT

This session will share information on emerging technologies for working at night.

12:30-1:20 p.m. **Luncheon and Keynote Presentation**

Moderator: Bradley Sant, ARTBA

Keynote: Dave Keeling, OSHA Assistant Secretary

1:30-2:20 p.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Connected Work Zones

Moderator: Melisa Finley

Presenters: Tim Luttrel, ATSSA; Chris Falcos, MA-DOT

This session will discuss how the Connected Work Zone Standard is being implemented to automate the association of connected devices in the field to validate planned work.

Topic: Educating Teen Drivers on Navigating Work Zones

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Tom Robbins, Work Zone Safe

After a brief introduction, participants will move outside to a mock work zone, where they will receive "train-the-trainer" instruction on how to set up a "Behind the Cones" demonstration for teens to understand that "behind every cone, there's a worker."

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Best Practices for Spotting and Backing

Moderator: Robinson Vasquez

Presenters: Paul Ziegler, Allan Myers Construction; John Farrell, Allan Myers Construction; Robinson Vasquez, ARTBA

Backing can be one of the most dangerous operations on a roadway construction site. The convergence of large equipment operating near pedestrian workers creates a hazardous environment. This session will share best practices for spotting and controlling backing operations.

Topic: Pedestrian Safety

Moderator: Isabel George

Presenters: Eric Perry, ATSSA

This presentation explores practical strategies for maintaining pedestrian safety and accessibility in and around work zones. The session will highlight the safety needs behind various solutions, lessons learned from real-world applications, and key considerations for implementation. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for improving pedestrian safety, mobility, and accessibility in temporary traffic control environments.

3:30-4 p.m. **Exhibits**

4-5 p.m. **Simultaneous Workshops**

Topic: Leveraging E-ticketing to Improve Work Zone Safety

Moderator: Michael Gallant, HaulHub

Presenters: Jimmy Hovatter, MD-DOT; John Veronick, MD-DOT; Catherine Schwander, DE-DOT

This session recaps the successes of an ADCMS Grant that created a multi-state collaborative group to expand the use of e-ticketing software to eliminate paper processes, boost field productivity, and provide worker presence notifications.

Topic: Worker Mental Health

Moderator: Brad Sant

Presenters: Jessica Bunting, CPWR; Jaime Quent, Long Island Contractors' Assn.; Brandon Anderson, AGC Missouri

This session looks at many aspects of worker mental health – from addictions to suicide prevention, this is total worker health.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

7-7:50 a.m. **Breakfast**

8 a.m.-12 p.m. **Exhibits**

8-8:50 a.m. ***Topic: Queue Protection***

Moderator: Isabel George

Presenters: Eric Perry, ATSSA; Amy Fiscor, TN-DOT; Cong Chen, University of South Florida

This session will share information about recent research and documents related to queue protection in work zones.

9-9:50 a.m. ***Topic: FHWA Grantee Showcase***

Moderator: Brad Sant

ATSSA: Jim Rhine
Univ. of South Florida: Cong Chen
Univ. of Missouri: Henry Brown
Univ. of Kansas: Steven Schrock
Iowa State (INTRNS): Skylar Knickerbocker
ARTBA: Brad Sant

During this session, grantees of the FHWA Work Zone Safety Training program will share the latest information about research, training, and education designed to make work zones safer!

10-10:15 a.m. ***Topic: Closing Remarks***

Bradley Sant; Martha Kapitanov; Melisa Finley

10:25 a.m.-12 p.m. ***Topic: FHWA Special Session*** (Invitation Only)