Connecticut Department of Transportation Promotes Work Zone Safety

The Connecticut Department of Transportation along with other states and national transportation organizations are promoting work zone safety during the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week scheduled for April 3–April 9, 2005. The event is held the first or second week of April every year and is meant to inform and educate the motoring public, workers and the media on the fact that thousands of people are killed or injured in work zones each year.

Since 1999, the Connecticut Department of Transportation with the support of the Federal Highway Administration has partnered with other agencies, law enforcement, industry members, companies, and associations to promote the message—slow down for work zones.

Connecticut’s 2004 campaign theme, “Slow Down for Work Zones or You Will Stop for Us (law enforcement),” will be used for 2005 to reinforce the theme for the 2005 National Work Zone Awareness Week, “SLOW DOWN OR PAY UP.”

Motorists traveling faster than the posted speed limit are not only placing themselves at risk but also

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By the Way...

News of Note from Donna Shea
Technology Transfer Center
Director

The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center is proud to introduce ...  

The Connecticut Creative Solutions Award

What is the Creative Solutions Award Program?

A new award program that will:

- Recognize the initiative and innovative thinking of public agency transportation staff in the development of tools, equipment modifications, and processes that increase safety, reduce cost, improve efficiency, and improve the quality of transportation.
- Identify and help distribute ideas created in the field so that others can duplicate them and implement them.
- Promote continued improvement.

This is what we call technology transfer: taking good ideas and documenting them so that they can be shared amongst the communities they impact.

Innovations, simple or complex, will compete for the Connecticut Creative Solutions Awards. Three awards will be given each year. The creative solutions will be showcased at our annual Technology Transfer Expo and winning agencies will be presented with their awards during our annual Technology Transfer Center graduation ceremony. Winners will also have their creative solutions published in our Technology Transfer Center newsletter.

What are the criteria that will be used by the judges?

- Safety (Did the creative solution improve transportation or environmental safety?)
- Cost Savings (Did it save money?)
- Inventiveness (How creative was it?)
- Transportability (How broadly can the solution be used?)
- Effectiveness (Did it solve the problem?)

How can you submit a Creative Solution for consideration?

Call the Technology Transfer Center at (860) 486-5400 and we will send or fax you a submission form, or visit our web site at www.T2center.uconn.edu to download the form.

What should your submission packet include?

- The completed submission form;
- A description of the solution and how it meets the award program criteria;
- A photo or sketch of the creative solution

Send submission packets by August 1, 2005 to: Connecticut Creative Solutions Award Program, Technology Transfer Center, Connecticut Transportation Institute, 179 Middle Turnpike, Unit 5202, Storrs, CT 06269

It is a simple formula:

Good Ideas = Savings and Safety, and Savings and Safety = Good Governance

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Technology Transfer Center
Phone: 860-486-5400
Fax: 860-486-2399
Web: www.T2Center.uconn.edu

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Terri Thompson, Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Work Zone Safety Chairperson, wants motorists to understand that the multitude of barriers, drums, cones and black and orange construction signs are in place for a reason. “They are important to both the motorist and the worker. Motorists need adequate warning and guidance through these areas and the men and women that work next to traffic each and every day need to be provided a safe environment to work in. Work zones are not an inconvenience, they are a necessity.”

The objective of work zone safety enforcement is to ensure that all workers in work zones can do their jobs safely, and all motorists can travel through them safely, as well. To help motorists navigate safely through work sites, the Connecticut Department of Transportation offers the following tips:

- Expect the unexpected!
- Slow down!
- Don’t tailgate!
- Pay attention!
- Obey traffic persons!
- Stay alert!
- Be patient and stay calm!

Remember—the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride!

To find out more about the Department of Transportation’s Work Zone Safety campaign, visit the DOT’s web site at www.ct.gov/dot.

ARTBA Foundation Accepting Applications for 2005 Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation (ARTBA-TDF) is currently accepting nominations for the “Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program” for the 2005 academic year. The program provides financial assistance to help the children of highway construction workers killed or become permanently disabled in roadway construction zone accidents.

Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2005. For scholarship selection criteria and a copy of the application form, please visit the association’s web site at www.artba.org or contact ARTBA’s Rhonda Britton at 202-289-4434.

Scholarship winners will be announced on or before July 15, 2005.

Over the past five years, more than 25 students have been selected as scholarship recipients.

Worker Safety and Visibility

As our highway infrastructure ages, many highway agencies are focusing on rebuilding existing roadways instead of building new ones. Highway improvement projects being performed on roadways that are open to traffic are increasing. At the same time, traffic continues to grow and creates more congestion. This combination of more work zones, heavier traffic, and greater reliance on night work results in increased risk for highway workers. The following methods can be used to minimize and control risks for workers:

High-visibility Apparel:
- All workers should wear high visibility apparel.
- Worker visibility during dawn or dusk conditions may be enhanced by the use of fluorescent colored high-visibility apparel.
- The use of colors such as yellow-green for the worker apparel may help to differentiate the worker from the orange colored work vehicles, signs, drums, etc.

Worker Training:
- Workers should be trained in how to work near traffic.
- Workers responsible for temporary traffic control should be adequately trained.
- Work rules should be established and enforced to minimize worker risks from traffic.

Activity Area Planning:
- Routes should be identified and marked to allow workers and work vehicles to safely enter and exit the work space.
- Backing should be controlled by spotters or other positive means wherever workers or pedestrians may be present.
- Overhead and underground utilities should be located and marked to prevent contact by equipment and workers.

Speed Control:
Compliance with posted speed limits is important to protect workers and the traveling public. The following strategies can be used to control traffic speeds through work zones, whether or not the speed limit is reduced:
- Establish appropriate speed limits for work zone
- Properly posted regulatory speed limits
- Law enforcement
- Radar activated changeable message signs
- Flaggers (under some conditions)

Positive Separation of Traffic and Work Activities:
Separating traffic from work activities by the use of temporary traffic barriers, shadow vehicles with truck-mounted attenuators, or similar devices minimizes risk for both workers and travelers. The need for positive separation should be based on work zone factors including:
- Traffic speed and volume
- Distance between workers and traffic
- Duration and type of work operations
- Physical hazards present in the work zone
- Alignment of traffic lanes through the work zone

Lighting:
Temporary lighting should be used in night work zones to accomplish the following:
• The work area and its approaches should be lighted to provide better visibility for drivers to safely travel through the work zone.
• Illumination should be provided wherever workers are present to make them visible.
• Glare must be controlled so as not to interfere with the visibility of the work zone by drivers and workers.

Worker Safety Planning:

Planning, implementation, and oversight of worker safety should be the responsibility of a competent safety specialist, and should adequately address the requirements of OSHA and MUTCD. In particular:
• A hazard assessment of the work site should be conducted to identify worker risks.
• Engineering and administrative controls and personal protective measures should be implemented to protect workers from the identified risk.

Special Devices:

Judicious use of special traffic control devices may be helpful in reducing worker risks in certain work zone situations. These include:
• Rumble strips
• Changeable message signs
• Intrusion alarms
• Spotters

From FHWA-SA-03-009, available on line at safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/

National Work Zone Memorial Comes to Connecticut in September

The National Work Zone Memorial to those who lost their lives in roadway work zones is scheduled to visit Hartford on September 7 and 8.

The memorial—which includes the names of workers, law enforcement personnel, emergency personnel, motorists and their passengers—is part of a traveling exhibition called “Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road.”

The exhibition, to be located at the Connecticut Convention Center, will be hosted by the Federal Highway Administration, the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Technology Transfer Center during the Eastern Winter Maintenance Symposium.

The names of thirty-five Connecticut residents are included among the hundreds currently listed on the memorial wall.

Unveiled in April 2002, the memorial is a living tribute to their memory, traveling to communities across the country year-round to raise public awareness of the need to respect and stay safe in America’s roadway work zones.

The memorial is maintained and cared for by the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation, the charitable and educational arm of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).
Work Zone Safety Information On Line
A Select List of Work Zone Safety Web Sites and Resources

**National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse**
wzsafety.tamu.edu
Contains information on:
• Accident Statistics
• Laws and Regulations
• Equipment and Technology
• Public Education and Outreach Programs
• Research Publications

**Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety, Work Zone**
safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/
Contains information on:
• Facts and Statistics

**Our web site has a brand new look and a brand new address.**
You can visit us now at www.T2Center.uconn.edu.
_Don’t forget to update your browser’s bookmarked favorites!_

**Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety, Roadside Hardware**
safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/road_hardware/
Contains information on:
• Frequently Asked Questions
• Policy, Regulations and Guidance
• Nighttime Visibility of Signs
• Manufacturers
• Workshops and Training
• Ongoing Research
• Hardware Acceptance Letters

**Federal Highway Administration Work Zone Mobility and Safety Program**
www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/
Contains information on:
• Best Practices
• Construction Strategies
• Contracting Strategies
• Intelligent Transportation Systems and Technology
• Outreach and Training
• Performance Measurement
• Regulation and Policy
• Work Zone and Traffic Analysis/Management

**Building Safer Highway Work Zones: Measures to Prevent Worker Injuries from Vehicles and Equipment (NIOSH)**
w w w . c d c . g o v / n i o s h / 2001128.html
Highway Work Zone Safety Checklist Manual (NELHSF)
www.nelhsf.com/health/safetymanuals/

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (FHWA)
mutch.fhwa.dot.gov

Work Zone Related Crashes: Challenges and Opportunities for Prevention (NIOSH)
www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-119/

From Our Resource Library
To request the following item, please call 860-486-6446, send the request form on the back page of this newsletter, or use our on-line information request form at www.cti.uconn.edu/ti/Technology/Info_request.htm.

Comprehensive Intersection Resource Library, CD-ROM, Federal Highway Administration, FHWA-SA-04-002
The resources included in this library represent a broad cross-section of publications and other media published by the Federal Highway Administration and other transportation safety partners. Library content is organized into five broad categories, including traditional signalized and unsignalized intersections, roundabouts, highway/rail grade crossings, and other nontraditional intersection designs such as single-point intersections.

Calendar
Connecticut Technology Transfer Center Training Opportunities

APRIL
12, 13 Flagger Certification
Road Master Elective, Storrs

Flagger Certification Training
April 12 or 13, Afternoon Sessions

Earn a two-year National Safety Council certificate and learn about: flagger visibility, personal protective equipment, flagger equipment, selection of traffic control station, parts of signing pattern, and general work zone safety. Taught by Bill Eyberse. Fees: $75.00 Municipalities and $150 private sector. Call 860-486-5400 for a registration form or register on-line at http://www.engr.uconn.edu/ti/Technology/registration.html.

MAY
15, 16 Chainsaw Operating Techniques
Road Master Elective, Storrs

JUNE
1 Where and When to Use Signs, Signals and Markings
Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Required, Hartford

2 Where and When to Use Signs, Signals and Markings
Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Required, Storrs

22, 23 Surveying Methods for Local Roads
Road Master Elective, Storrs

For more information on upcoming programs or to register on-line, please visit our web site at www.engr.uconn.edu/ti/Technology/workshops.html

If you have additional questions, please call 860-486-5400.

For information on upcoming programs from our partner CONN-OSHA, please visit their web site at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/osha/moshe1199.htm
Technology Transfer Center Request Form

_____ Please change my address/contact information as indicated below.

_____ Please add this person to the mailing list. _____ Please remove this person from the mailing list.

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Title: ______________________________________________________________________________

Agency/Organization: __________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________ Fax: ___________________ E-mail: __________________________

I would like to see a future newsletter article on the topic of ___________________________________

I would like to submit a newsletter article; please call me at_______________________________

I would like to request the following informational resource materials:

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

Please fax a copy of this form to 860-486-2399 or mail to:

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Technology Transfer Center
Connecticut Transportation Institute
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Storrs, CT  06269-5202