

Bennett Stein

From: Louizou, Tom <NHTSA>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 2:02 PM
To: Geraci, Michael <NHTSA>
Subject: RE: Construction zone protocol

Thanks Mike. The topic first came up at my meeting with Frank Pawlowski. That prompted my first e-mail. The troopers love the money but with resources stretched, the patrol can longer afford to free up dozens of officers. The construction companies are not bashful about asking for ridiculous numbers of officers because it's billable to the project. FHWA is hesitant to set a guideline because everyone is afraid of lawsuits, heaven forbid, someone gets hurt.

So, it's getting hotter. Anything you can share will be appreciated.

From: Geraci, Michael <NHTSA>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 1:52 PM
To: Louizou, Tom <NHTSA>; Morford, Garrett <NHTSA>
Subject: RE: Construction zone protocol

Tom, Garrett is off today. I'll talk to him on Tuesday and see what's new that we can put together for you. This was a hot topic over the weekend at the IACP Highway Safety meeting. However, be cautious. Many LE executives expressed concerns about their officers making large sums of overtime at highway construction sites but serve little if any safety or enforcement measure. As you are aware, in most cases a marked patrol unit with all emergency lights activated is the first vehicle placed in the construction zone for the purpose of warning/detering. However in reality there is little deterrent to reducing speed because motorists realize that there in fact is almost no enforcement activity. Some executives are looking to change the way they do business and have their officers there for enforcement purposes and not as a warning vehicle. Unions are already weighing in on the issue citing officer safety concerns. The NYS Police are changing their policy. Major Salmon said they are mobilizing 100 troopers to deploy statewide for speed enforcement in construction zones. Other states have significantly increased their fines, while others are considering automated speed enforcement. Chief Bud Pendleton, Waterford CT PD is representing the CT Chief's of Police on this issue on a statewide committee, Phil Weiser may be aware of it, if not I'm sure that Bud would be happy to talk to you. He can be reached at 860-442-9451 or mpendleton@waterfordct.org.

Give Major Salmon a call (518-457-3258) for specific details on their plan, I think that might be a good topic for you to discuss. We'll also talk to FHWA and try to get you current crash data in work zone areas.
Mike

From: Louizou, Tom <NHTSA>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 12:55 PM
To: Morford, Garrett <NHTSA>
Cc: Geraci, Michael <NHTSA>
Subject: RE: Construction zone protocol

Hey Garrett and Mike:

Do you anything to help out on this request?

In addition to the below PA request, NJ has asked me about construction zone safety viz-a-viz NHTSA's work – speed enforcement, training, police protection. They are hosting a one day construction zone safety forum at Rutgers on April 9. I'm expected to participate. Can you offer any information, policies, IACP [position, guideline?

Tom

From: Louizou, Tom <NHTSA>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:01 PM

To: Morford, Garrett <NHTSA>
Cc: Geraci, Michael <NHTSA>
Subject: Construction zone protocol

Hey Garrett,

I hope all is well. I met with the new Commissioner of the PA State Police, Colonel Frank Pawlowski this week. His Patrol Director Major Harvey Cole and his DC of Operations, Lt. Col Lenny Bandy were also in attendance.

They are interested in finding a way to use LPRs or photo radar in construction zones. Do you have any information on that? They are also interested in knowing if we have a guideline for position patrol cars in construction zones? The LT Col wants to position them facing traffic instead of in the same direction. He believes members will be afforded better crash protection should their vehicle be struck by a passing motorist. Anything on that? From IACP? or our international partners?

Even more obscure: do we have anything on pre-emptive highway closures due to bad weather (snow)? Any Rocky Mountain states or Pacific Northwest states have a policy?

Thanks,
Tom