

AASHTO SCOTSEM Solar Eclipse Transportation Task Force

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2017

I. Call to order

Tom Korty called to order the Initial planning coordination conference call of the AASHTO SCOTSEM Solar Eclipse Transportation Task Force at 1:30pm on June 23, 2017.

II. Roll call

Tom Korty/Alex Fisher-Willis conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Tom Korty, Greg EK-Collins, Amy Eller, Laurie Radow, Tom Johnson, Donna O'Berry, Matt Hiebert, Chris Engelbrecht, Butch Morgan, Steve Ernst, Dana Hendrix, Willie Huff, Bonnie Castello, Bryan Donze, Mike Bastin, Selena Standifer, Heath Patterson, John Thomas, Tom Sands, Maggie Kasperski, Dan Monteleone, Jarrod Ravencraft, Jeff King, Kerry Kimble, Darriel Bivens,

III. Open issues

Began discussion by starting with states that will be directly impacted from West Coast to East Coast. Questions include:

- What is being done for traffic management?
- What are the dates of emergency operations being planned?
- What is the state's biggest concern?
 - a) Oregon – Greg EK-Collins - Operations:
 - a. All agencies, and DOT's 5 regions are working with cities and municipalities for the last several months and are currently finalizing plans
 - b. Dates for emergency operations planning starting Wednesday before through Friday after event. For the day of planning on 6:00 a.m. through the afternoon activating emergency management.
 - c. Ensuring same messaging being broadcast
 - d. Moratorium on oversized loads – treating it like a holiday weekend (no maintenance or construction work)
 - e. All hands on deck
 - f. VMS signs are with traffic engineers for approval
 - g. Major routes include I5, I84, US97, US26, and Oregon state routes 18 and 22
 - h. Regional crews are helping the counties

- i. In the high desert, BLM and forest services are concerned about wildfires
 - j. Health department is organizing comfort stations and water stations
 - k. Every county has an event at the fair grounds
 - l. Big concerns are spontaneous stoppers on the roadway
 - m. Anticipating 1 Million coming into the state, adding 25% of the population

- b) Idaho - no attendance

- c) Wyoming – Bob Stoker – Wyoming Highway Patrol
 - a. Oversize restrictions held August 18 through 23
 - b. Halting construction day before and day after event
 - c. Expected 250,000 – 500,000 to travel to the state, doubling the population
 - d. Each town/ community is hosting events
 - e. Dry conditions are also a concern for wild fires
 - f. Other issues include: food permits, camping spots, boating issues (fish and wildlife and state parks do not have enough staffing for command posts for boat inspections)
 - g. All State dot/ security and county and local personnel are to be on duty
 - h. Concern about cell networks – are there enough towers, could webex be deactivated, big issues for areas where this is the only service available.

- d) Nebraska – Tom Sands
 - a. DOR, State patrol, National Guard, game and parks all working together
 - b. Community events being held throughout the weekend
 - c. Many roads are 2 lane with no shoulder – spontaneous stoppers are a concern
 - d. I-80 traffic management also a concern
 - e. Emergency operations center will be running all day of the event
 - f. Have not looked at oversized loading permits yet
 - g. Currently construction on I80 and in rural areas are planning to continue work as is
 - h. Not planning for any operational issues prior to the day of the event

- e) Iowa – Bonnie Castello
 - a. Goal is getting traffic through Iowa to main zones
 - b. Signing – need a clear path for people to get out once eclipse is over
 - c. Have a committee meeting next week

- d. No load restrictions are likely but will need to work with Nebraska if they are doing restrictions
 - e. Need to check on construction and emergency management activating operations center
- f) Kansas – did not attend
- g) Missouri –
- a. Planning activates on Friday the 18th.
 - b. It is the end of the state fair weekend and first weekend to move into college's so already planning on having extra travel in the area
 - c. Expecting 300,000 to 1.3 Million from out of state
 - d. No restriction on normal oversized loads but will have restriction on super-sized loads
 - e. Work zones – plotting on GIS the major routes and will not allow paving operations during
 - f. Maintenance will notify of entire state work and will limit as needed
 - g. Small water and barge craft conflicts area a concern
 - h. Air traffic is also a concern – may reach capacity and where will they travel after they get to the airport. Many are anticipated to head to Columbia, which will most likely reach capacity at the university
 - i. Matt Hiebert is helping with messaging side: launching eclipse website. Other states are further ahead. They are already seeing a lot of media coverage
- h) Illinois – Tom Korty
- a. NASA is going to be broadcasting from Carbondale, SIU Campus
 - b. 135,000 – 50,000 to 250,000 per county estimate to arrive
 - c. Emergency operations will be activated August 18-22
 - d. Unified Area Command, Northern and Southern Area Command will be established.
 - e. Walkers Bluff - Moonstock – expecting 20K people
 - f. 30,000 people expected at Southern Illinois campus
 - g. Clearing construction zones - August 18 – 22
 - h. Whole state is in the 90% zone
 - i. Roaming patrols may be activated
 - j. Evacuation concerns (discussed later)
 - k. Amy from IDOT has provided assistance from Operations
- i) Dariel Bivens – USDOT – Kentucky
- a. Shared the action plan with the group
- j) Dariel Bivens – USDOT – Tennessee
- a. Using overhead VMS for common sense guidance
 - b. Law enforcement will be managed the same as usual

- c. Treating is as any other day – nonevent
- d. Not activating emergency management, maintain routine day to day operations
- k) North Carolina – Not present
- l) Georgia – Not Present
- m) South Carolina
 - a. Same concerns as the other states
 - b. Operations period 18 – 23rd
 - c. Colleges normal move in dates are being suspended to help with traffic
 - d. Events going on around the state
 - e. Lots of activities on lake
 - f. DNR and location sheriff departments working together
 - g. DOE is closing schools
 - h. 5 million people can converge into the state during the time frame
 - i. US 17 / US 110 – along the coasts are concerns
 - j. Local agencies managing own traffic
 - k. Biggest concern is people pulling over during event
 - l. VMS, 511 all stating “do not stop”
 - m. Haven’t discussed construction activities yet

Second Question: Evacuation Planning – What Risks do we see?

- a) South Carolina
 - a. Only have evacuation plan for DOT, don’t have on for individual municipalities
- b) Illinois
 - a. Concern with a rapture group coming in. There are various religious groups that could lead to issues.
 - b. State can’t make plans until municipalities make plans
- c) Iowa
 - a. Need to touch base with MO and NB – develop a preplan and participate with those states
- d) Nebraska
 - a. No evacuation plans in place
 - b. Will initiate standard evacuation plan if needed
 - c. National guard will be on duty doing training exercises during the events
- e) Wyoming
 - a. Will use standard evacuation plan – city, county and WyDOT crews
- f) Oregon
 - a. With high wildfire potential, high desert has biggest concerns. Will restrict areas that already have high wild fire concerns

Laurie Radow –

- FHWA website. Doesn’t have much about traffic information

- Concerns about solar panels – estimated that during the darkness (approximately 3 hours) will lose 27% of solar production
- Cellular issues also a big concern

IV. Solar Eclipse Webinar on July 27th

V. Next called will be scheduled if more discussion in necessary after the webinar