

#### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Department of Transportation



















#### 2021 CAPA/NCDOT Virtual Workshop - Work Zone Traffic Control

Don Parker, PE, State Work Zone Engineer

March 2021

### **Today's Discussion Topics**

- Updated WZ Crash Statistics
- National Work Zone Awareness Week
- Memorial Wall
- Installer Certification Update
- Connected Lane Closure Devices
- Pedestrian Accommodations in Resurfacing Packages



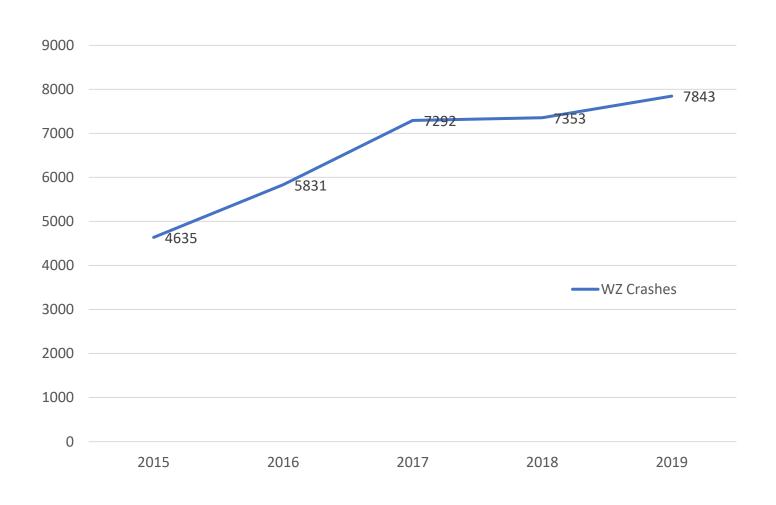
#### **Work Zone Crash Data**



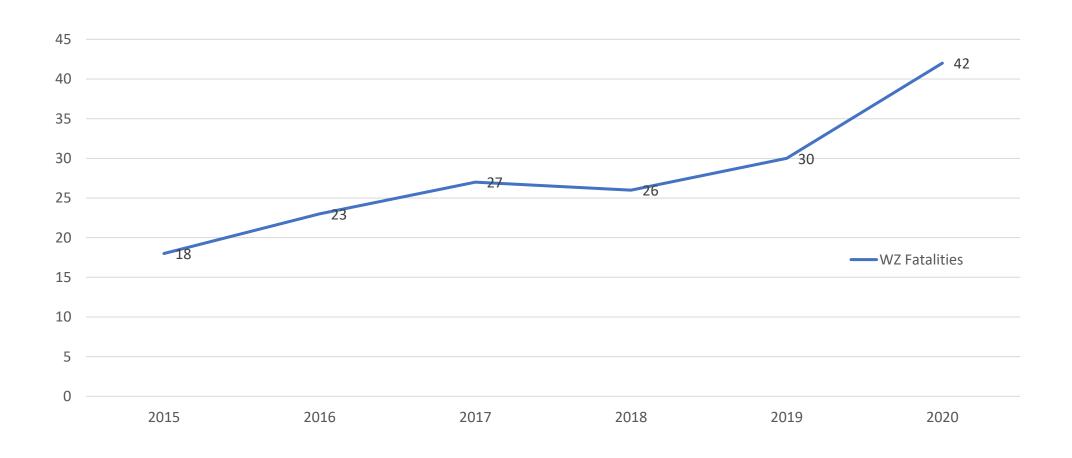
#### Work Zone Crash Data

- 30 Fatalities in 2019 (5 Year Average = 25)
- 42 Fatalities in 2020 (data through 12/25/2020)
  - 40% increase over 2019 numbers and 45% over the 5-year average
- 3 Fatalities in 2021 (data through 3/19/2021)
- 2019 7,843 Work Zone Crashes
- 2020 3,685 Work Zone Crashes (as of 8/31/2020)

#### 5 Year Trend of Work Zone Crashes



#### 5 Year Trend for WZ Fatalities



# Work Zone Crash Data – COVID Impacts

 2020 - Mid-March to Mid-April our highway system saw a 40-50% reduction in travel

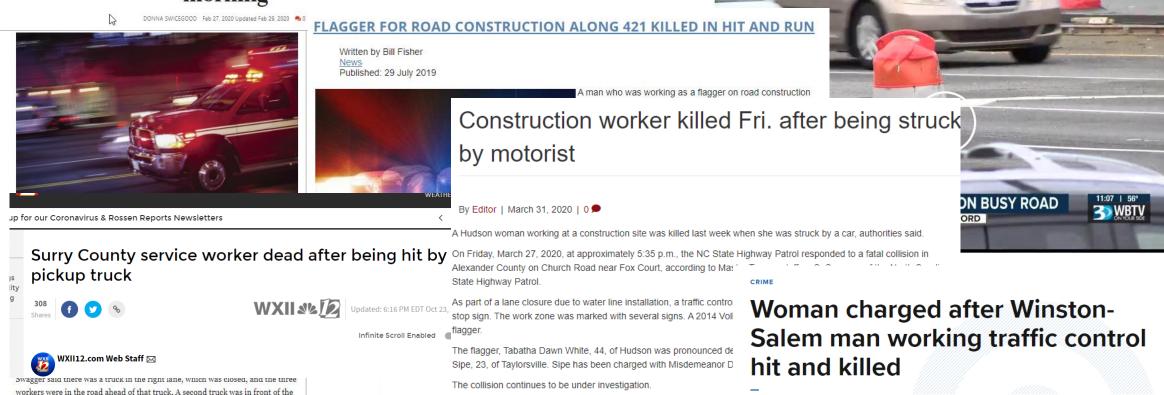
 With less congestion, speeds increased and the severe crash and fatality rates per miles traveled also increased, including in work zones

• Travel steadily increased over the summer and early fall last year. Currently, traffic volumes are now within 5-8% of pre-COVID travel levels.

#### Work Zone Fatalities involving Construction Workers in 2019 & 2020



three workers, he said.



Construction worker dead, three others injured after

being hit by drunk driver near Concord Mills Mall

National Work Zone Awareness Week April 26-30, 2021



## Wear Orange Day April 28th

Show support for those killed in work zones as well as their families.

Post images to social media

#Orange4Safety

#GoOrangeDay



# Coming to North Carolina!

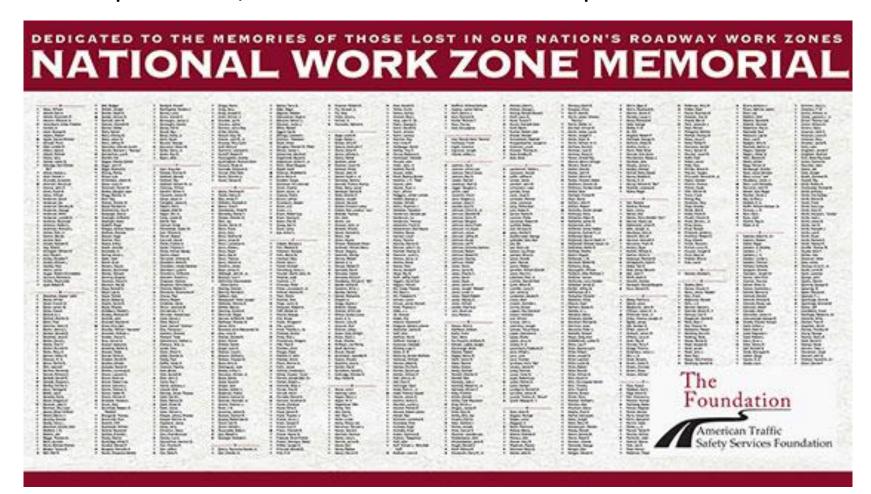
April 12-16, 2021

NATIONAL WORK ZONE MEMORIAL

# Foundation

# Welcome Center I-95 SB in Northampton County just south of the Virgina Line

April 12-16, 2021 Press Conference April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30



## Work Zone Training Certification Update

 North Carolina requires that work zone training appropriate to the job decisions that each individual is required to make.

- Three levels of Certification:
  - Supervisor (2011)
  - Installer (2021)
  - Flagger (2010)



Goal is safe and correct installation of temporary traffic control

Bridge the gap between the Supervisor and Flagging certification

- Challenges
  - Large number of people
  - Course and Exam rigor
  - Turnover rates
  - Course availability



Effective July 1, 2021

At least one member of every crew responsible for setup, installation, and removal of traffic control devices within any highway right of way shall be trained and certified as a Work Zone Installer. The certified Work Zone Installer should serve as crew leader and shall be on site and directing the installation and removal of temporary traffic control.

All other members of the crew shall be certified flaggers, even if flagging is not being performed as part of the traffic control.

• The installer is **ON SITE - DIRECTING** and **PARTICIPATING** in the safe and correct set up and removal of temporary traffic control

 Supervisor does not have to be on site, but the Installer does



The Work Zone Installer does not replace or change the requirements of a Work Zone Supervisor as described in article 1101-13 of the Standard Specifications. For every project, the contractor must provide a certified Supervisor that

- Has the overall responsibility for proper implementation of the TMP
- Ensures employees have received proper training.
- Available to address concerns of the Resident

A supervisor can replace an installer during a TTC installation, but an Installer cannot be a replacement for the Supervisor

All other members of the crew shall be certified flaggers, even if flagging is not being performed as part of the traffic control.

An approved flagger course does include necessary components of safety for someone working in and around traffic

- Entering and exiting the work zone
- Proper positioning of oneself and vehicles relative to traffic.
- Instruction on personal protective equipment and safety vest
- How to conduct yourself in and around traffic
- How to make sure you are clearly visible to motorist

Course is more readily available and appropriate for the decisions being made of most members of a traffic control crew.

Training and certification provided by Department approved trainers

- ATTSA
- ITRE
- JM Teague Engineering
- https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/WZTC/Documents/Supervis orTraining.pdf

Certification is good for 4 years

#### Installer Certification - Self Certification

Contractors can train and self certify their employees.

Trainer Credentials (Revised)

- 3 years' experience in the road construction industry. Examples of qualifying industry experience include but not limited to the following:
  - Construction Foreman, Superintendent, Project Engineer, Project Manager
  - Flagging, Traffic Control Installation, and/or Pavement Marking Installation
  - Equipment Operator, Material Testing/Inspection and/or Utility work within highway R/W
  - Company Safety Officer or similar position knowledgeable in roadside safety.
  - Construction Engineering and/or Designing or Developing Temporary Traffic Control Plans and details
- Completion of an approved Work Zone Supervisor course including a passing score on the exam.

#### Installer Certification - Self Certification



#### Installer Course Content

- Traffic Control Fundamentals
- Common Traffic Control Devices
- Other Devices specific to Interstate Work Zones
- How to use and apply the Roadway Standard Drawings
- Installation sequencing for traffic control
- Pedestrian Accommodations
- Tail Gate meetings

#### Installer Certification-Self Certification

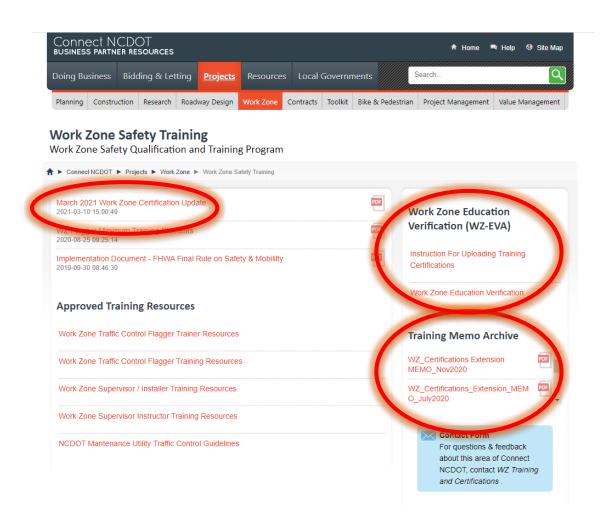
- All Day Class; 6 to 7 hours worth of instruction
- 25 Question (Min) Exam 70 or better to pass
- Retesting is permissible
- Develop written course manual that the student can keep
- Develop a Power Point to teach it from
- Submit to training material, power point, and exam to WZTC for review and approval

## **Installer Certification Summary**

- Effective July 1, At least one person on the traffic control crew shall be certified as an Installer
- All other members certified as Flaggers
- Certification will be good for 4 years
- Training is available from approved trainers
- Contractors can also self certify

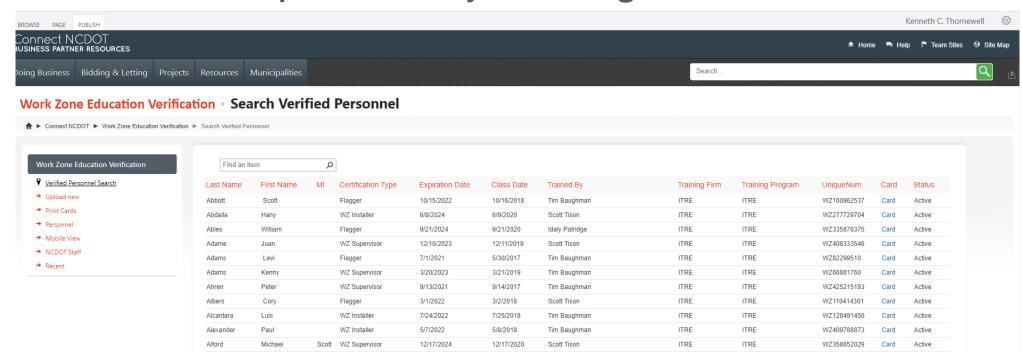
## Updated Work Zone Safety Training Website

- Latest Memo is at the top of the page.
- Historical memos are to the right
- Added Installer course guidelines
- NEW: Work Zone Education Verification App (WZ-EVA)



#### WZ-EVA

- Online database for Residents and Inspectors to verify WZ training credentials
- Records are uploaded by training firms



#### WZ-EVA

- Public-facing site does not allow for printing wallet cards
  - Only individuals approved to upload records can print wallet cards.
- Only NCDOT WZTC staff can modify or delete records.
- NCDOT will not be providing hard-copy wallet cards. We will issue digital wallet cards only to individuals seeking 1-year SC/VA reciprocity.

#### WZ-EVA

- Each certification has a unique identifying number.
- Re-certifications will get a unique number
- System will generate flagger/installer/supervisor wallet cards
- Trainers need to provide wallet cards to students.



Name Trainee Name

NCDOT Certification Type: Flagger

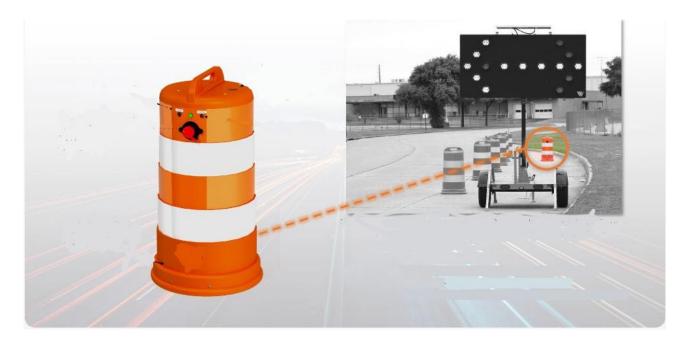
Training: 5/30/2017-Expires: 7/1/2021

ID: Unique ID Number

Card holder completed approved training program developed by ITRE, training conducted by Tim Baughman of ITRE.

#### Work Zone Certifications

- SC/VA certification reciprocity grace period is 1 year.
  - WZTC unit will be tracking these certification requests
  - Individuals will be issued a NC Certification card that expires in 1 year, and they will be listed in WZ-EVA.
  - Non-renewable Individuals must obtain NC certification within that year to avoid a disruption in certification



- Continuing Implementation of Smart Work Zone Technology
- Effective July 2021 Lettings

- Connected lane closure devices function as a pair
- GPS equipped, and transmits the location of the lane closure to navigational companies such as WAZE, Google Maps, as well as the Statewide Transportation Operations Center, STOC.
- Also going to provide the WZ info directly to the dash of connected vehicles which will make up larger and larger percentage of the overall fleet as the automotive industry advances toward automation



 Alert motorists that they are approaching an active work zone where people are working inside a closed travel lane



- For a group of lane closure (could be a single, double, or triple) two devices are required
- Paid by the each
- Device is installed on first FAB identifying the beginning of a lane closure
- Device is installed to a drum or other crashworthy device at the end of the same closure
- Pay item is for the device, not the FAB or the drum (they are included in the lane closure
- Effective July 2021 lettings





- Sidewalk curb ramp upgrades are now in some resurfacing packages
- Requires removal and replacement of sidewalk segment to meet ADA standards
- Pedestrian access must be maintained
- New Special Provisions included with these packages
  - RWZ-4
  - ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices
  - Pedestrian Transport Service



7 days is allowed for each severed sidewalk location New Special Provision inserted that provides 3 options:

 If on site, can provide an escort to assist the pedestrian around the location

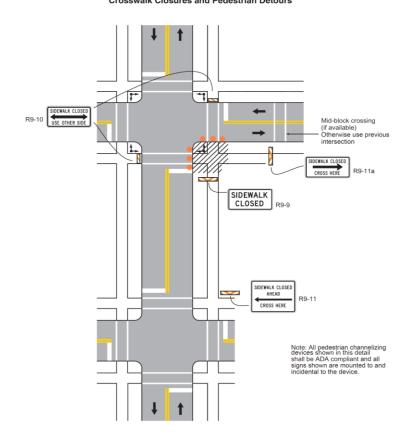
• Provide a temporary pedestrian detour

Provide a Pedestrian Transport Service

#### **Temporary Pedestrian Detour**

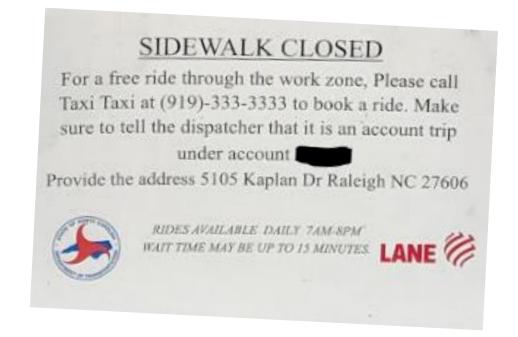
- Detour requires approval of the Engineer
- Detour cannot exceed ½ mile of additional travel
- Accessibility features are consistent with the closed sidewalk
- No existing accessibility pedestrian signals with ½ mile
- Use ADA compliant control devices (SP and Pay Item provided)

FIGURE 1
Crosswalk Closures and Pedestrian Detours



#### **Pedestrian Transport Service SP**

- An on-call service used to transport pedestrians around the project when no stable, traversable path can be maintained through the work area. Must enlist a licensed operator, such as a taxi or ridesharing service.
- Requires Audible Warning
- Will need to identify suitable pickup locations in plans.
- SP and Pay Item Provided
- Estimate: (Daily Ped Count) x (# of Days Sidewalk Interrupted)



# **ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices**

- ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices – Pedestrian Channelizing Devices and Temporary Curb Ramp
  - Used in conjunction with pedestrian detours at hard and soft closure
  - Would Include a sidewalk closed sign
  - Smooth top rail
  - Detectable bottom rail



# **ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices**

• Temporary Curb Ramps

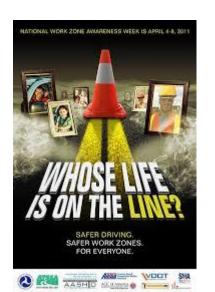
 Used whenever pedestrians must traverse an existing curb or other grade change.



# **ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices**

- ADA Compliant Traffic Control Devices – Audible Warning Devices
  - For visually impaired individuals
  - Used in conjunction with pedestrian transport service at sidewalk closure locations.
  - Motion Activated
  - Provide a recorded Message





#### **Questions/Comments?**

Contact Information

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