



SMARTER WORK ZONES

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL PEER EXCHANGES



WHAT ARE SMARTER WORK ZONES?

Smarter Work Zones (SWZ) is one of a few select innovations being promoted by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Every Day Counts Round 3 (EDC-3) initiative. SWZ are work zones that utilize innovative strategies to better coordinate construction projects and/or deploy innovative technology applications to dynamically manage and minimize work zone safety and mobility impacts.

Visit www.workzonesafety.org/swz to learn more about participation opportunities and to access our archive of resource materials!

PEER EXCHANGES

Peer exchanges offer agencies interested in adopting SWZ the opportunity to interact with staff in other agencies or with stakeholders who are experienced in successfully planning and deploying similar strategies and technologies. Understanding that agency needs differ, peer exchanges are customizable to best meet participant needs. Peer exchanges provide an opportunity for agencies to obtain technical assistance, ask questions, and generally learn from others while planning and implementing SWZ.

What is included in a peer exchange?

Peer exchanges can take many forms, including:

- Presentations at your agency's location by one or more peer experts with experience deploying similar tools or technologies within their own region or state.
- Facilitated, interactive discussions between expert peers and event participants to better understand how and why deployments occurred and/or how agency business processes were modified.
- Visits to another agency to view and discuss tools and procedures that are followed when implementing SWZ, or to see deployed technologies in action through field visits.

Discussions may include Q&A on how an agency has successfully implemented SWZ, lessons learned, as well as

changes made over time to improve SWZ deployment. If needed, a follow-up call can be arranged to address any remaining participant questions.

In-Person vs. Virtual Peer Exchanges—What's Best for My Agency?

FHWA offers the opportunity to meet in-person at a location of your choice, or virtually through FHWA's web meeting tools.

In-Person Peer Exchanges—An in-person event will typically last 1 to 1½ days. These events can involve several of your agency staff and stakeholders, meeting with one to two peer experts brought in specifically for the meeting event. A pre-developed agenda is followed to guide the discussion on the topics of interest. Conversely, a peer exchange can be arranged to bring up to three of your agency staff to meet with staff from another agency. A pre-developed agenda would again guide the discussion of topics. In these types of exchanges, the potential also exists to visit multiple work zones, allowing participants to examine SWZ technology in action.

Virtual Peer Exchanges—Virtual events generally last between 2 to 4 hours and are geared towards specific topics of interest. Virtual peer exchanges allow participants an in-depth look at a particular SWZ topic, as well as the inclusion of several peer experts, for comprehensive feedback. For agencies interested in multiple topics, a series of virtual peer exchanges can be made available.

How can my agency benefit from a peer exchange?

- Receive hands-on experience with tools and technologies being used by other agencies to better understand the required capabilities and benefits of the initiative.
- Learn from deploying peer agencies the steps necessary to successfully implement SWZ and appropriate scenarios to consider for an innovative deployment.
- Gain leadership, or decision-maker buy-in, by providing a forum for them to hear success stories and benefits of SWZ.

How does my agency schedule a peer exchange?

1. Identify a SWZ topic or list of topics of interest.
2. Contact SWZ Innovation lead Jawad Paracha to discuss how best to structure the peer exchange (i.e., in-person or virtual, potential peers to involve, meeting agenda).
3. Determine who within your agency (and possibly other key stakeholders) should participate.
4. Identify dates that work well for your participants.

FHWA will assist with scheduling, event logistics and travel (if needed), identifying appropriate expert peers, planning and developing content, as well as facilitating and documenting the event.

Regional Peer Exchanges Allow Agencies to Share Plans for the Every Day Counts Smarter Work Zones initiative

A series of four regional peer exchanges were held across the country in late 2015. These peer exchanges allowed attendees to hear what their peers in other agencies were doing to implement Smarter Work Zones, both from a technology application and from a project coordination standpoint. Presentations were made detailing deployment successes and lessons learned, as well as current and planned decision-making processes. Roundtable discussions focused on how well implementation efforts were progressing, impediments encountered, and suggested solutions for how the participants could resolve encountered impediments. At the conclusion of the exchange, attendees left with a better understanding of the opportunities available to them for implementing Smarter Work Zones, as well as key contacts in other agencies to call upon when additional information is required.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT PEER EXCHANGES?

Contact Information

Jawad Paracha

SWZ Innovation Lead, FHWA Work Zone Program Manager

 (202) 366-4628

 jawad.paracha@dot.gov

An interactive SWZ Resource Toolkit is available on the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse SWZ webpage:

www.workzonesafety.org/SWZ