

Pilot Car Escort Training Materials and State Certification Harmonization

Western Association of State
Highway and Transportation Officials
Reno Nevada
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The Need for the Project

Growing Recognition of the Need for Pilot Car Escort Operator Certification

Lack of Certification Harmonization

- No National Guidelines
- Lack of Consistency
- 12 States require certification
- Training and certification offered by States, Academia and Private Sector

Stakeholder Support

- AASHTO
- CVSA
- Industry

NTSB Accident Report Recommendations



Project Objectives

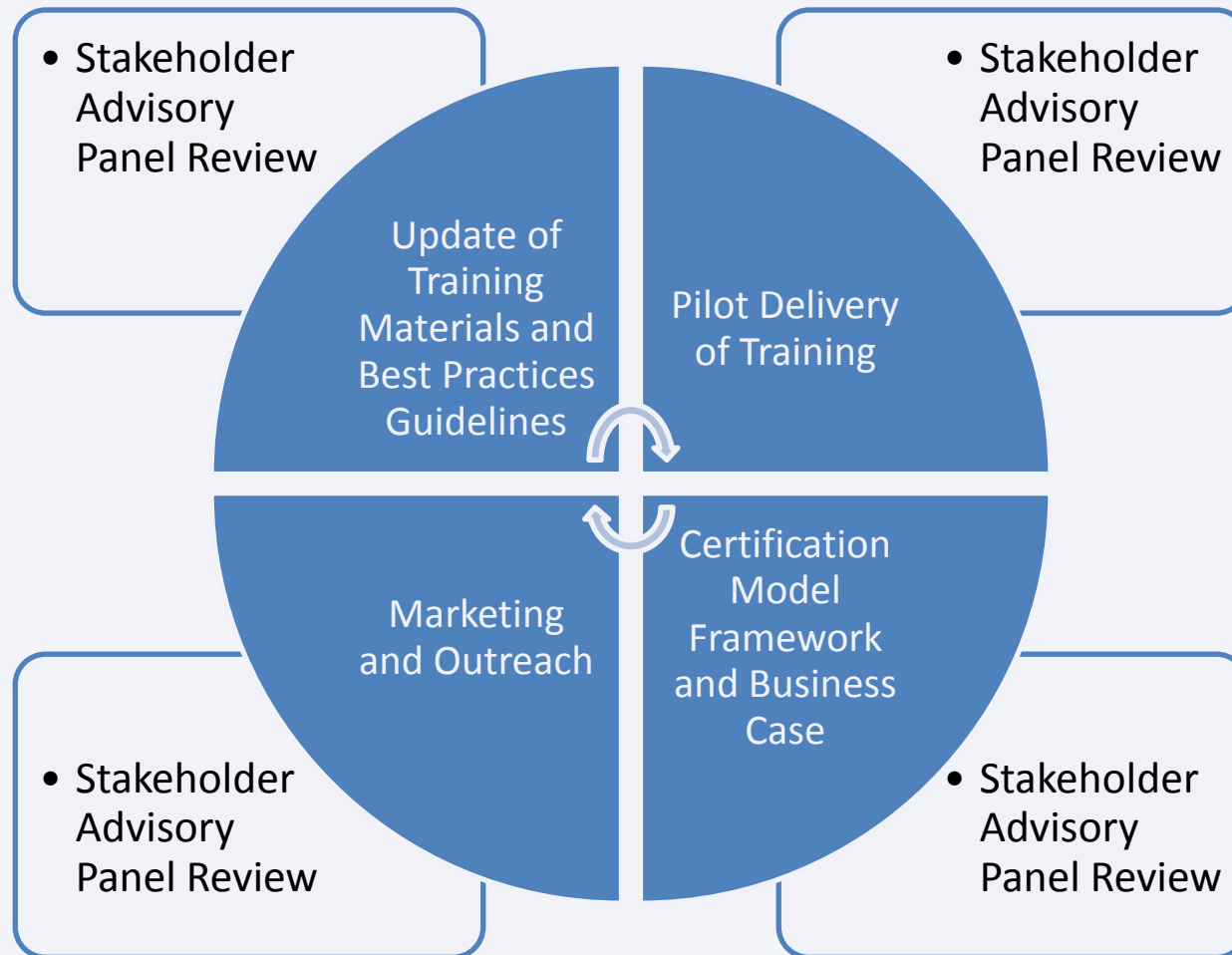
Update the 2004 pilot car escort guidelines and training materials.

Research and recommend a national certification program or process framework for the pilot car industry including guidance on national standards and core operator competencies.

Develop a marketing plan, outreach materials and a business case (for a national certification program or process) and supporting stakeholder outreach and education.



The Process: How We Will Get There



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Iterative Approach

Research on existing training and certification programs

Extensive Stakeholder Involvement

➤ Stakeholder Advisory Panel

- Chaired by FHWA
- Representation from pilot car industry, state governments, associations, law enforcement and end-users
- Peer review of draft training materials and model certification framework
- Ensure project products meet stakeholder requirements and needs

➤ Presentations at Stakeholder Forums

- CVSA Size and Weight Committee
- AASHTO Highway Policy Subcommittee
- Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association
- Manufactured Housing Institute

➤ Pilot Training Delivery



Who We Are: The Project Team

- The Sponsor: Federal Highway Administration
 - John Berg, Government Technical Manager
- Project Team
 - Nick Owens, Leidos
 - Project Manager
 - Dr. Ann Hamilton, Oklahoma State University
 - Training and Guidelines
 - Steven Todd, Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association
 - Certification Framework
 - Monica Worth, Leidos
 - Marketing and Outreach
 - Stephanie Sneary and Julie Lambert, Leidos
 - Technical Support



Stakeholder Advisory Panel Membership

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AAHSTO)
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA)
- American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)
- Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI)
- Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
- Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA)
- Pilot Car Industry
- Insurance Industry



Project Outcomes: Training Materials

Title	Format	Content
Pilot Car Escort Best Practices Guidelines	Abbreviated/bulleted format	Checklists to facilitate operations and trip planning
Law Enforcement Officer's Best Practices Guidelines	Quick reference manual	Definitions and guidance for law enforcement
Pilot Car Escort Training Manual	Detailed training manual	Overview of the purpose and need for pilot car escorts, detailed guidance for the subject, and general reference material
Pilot Car Escort Study Guide	Study questions organized by study topic	Questions organized by study topic
Training Presentation	PowerPoint presentation	Slides and speaker notes developed to complement the Pilot Car Escort Training Manual

Project Outcomes

- Training Materials
 - Available in public domain
 - Developed using publicly available information sources
 - Proprietary information will only be used with prior approval and will be appropriately referenced
- Development of Outreach Materials and a Marketing Plan
- Development of a Model Certification Framework
 - Enhanced Harmonization of State Certification Programs



Pilot Car Escort Vehicle Training

- Module 1: Course Overview and Introductions
- Module 2: Pilot Car Escort Operator and Vehicle Equipment Requirements
- Module 3: Route Planning
 - Route Selection
 - Route Survey
 - Enforcement
- Module 4: Pre-trip Activities
 - Safety Meeting
 - Pre-trip Walk Around
- Module 5: Trip Operations
 - Role of Escort Vehicle
 - Equipment Use
 - Roadway/Highway
 - Traffic Control
 - Railroad Crossings
 - Emergencies



Pilot Car Escort Vehicle Training

- Module 6: Post-Trip Activities
 - Equipment Issues
 - Post-trip Review
- Module 7: Driver Safety Issues
 - Distractions
 - Fatigue
 - Safety Technologies
- Module 8: Course Exam and Evaluation
 - Multiple Choice



Recommended Approach

Description:	Training and certification program materials available to all states Best Practice Guidelines serve as national guidelines for training
Primary Purpose:	Promote harmonization of state PEVO training and certification requirements
Requirements:	Training will be done using new training program and materials Certification will be based on core competencies and any state-specific requirements Steering Committee establishes minimum passing grades for each topic and overall training
Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed framework can be integrated into existing business processes used by states for training and certification• Reciprocity agreements can be based on common training and certification programs• Existing service providers can continue to deliver training and certification using the new program• Cost effective – core materials available in the public domain• Training can be tailored to include state-specific requirements
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficult to monitor the quality and consistency of training and certification• Not a formal certification program accredited to ANSI standards

Issues

- **Certification Requirements:** A written test should be required with a test bank available on a restricted basis to trainers authorized a state. Study guides that cover core competencies will be developed and made available to PEVOs to assist with preparing for the exam.
- Does a participant need to demonstrate a minimum understanding of and competency in each component of the training as well as the overall training?
- **Recertification:** States have the final authority for approving and issuing PEVO certification documents. How long do states wish a state-approved certification be valid? What are state requirements for renewing PEVO certification?
- The National Safety Council and AAA both recommend that renewal of a certification longer than three years should be based on successfully completing at least a one-day training program.
- **Harmonization:** What can be done to encourage improved harmonization of PEVO training and certification requirements among states – both existing programs and new programs?
- The use of the Best Practices Guideline as a national guideline and accepted core competencies for training and certification will help address this issue and facilitate improved harmonization of requirements. This improved harmonization of requirements will also help improve the consistency of reciprocity agreements between states.



Issues

- **Updating Existing Training and Certification Programs:** How frequently should the Best Practices Guidelines and training and reference materials, including examination questions, be updated to incorporate new material or new requirements? How should this be done to ensure that all states have access to these updates and that harmonization of requirements is continued?
- **Resources:** Is there support for developing a virtual clearinghouse that would serve as a “one-stop-shop” information resource? Is there support for providing technical assistance to current and proposed programs? If approved, how will these services be funded?
- **ANSI Standard Accredited Certification Program:** Fundamentally, is there a need for an accredited certification program compliant with ANSI standards administered by a third party organization?



Marketing and Outreach

- Defining the Audiences
 - Public and Private Sectors
- Identifying Information Needs
 - Public and Private Sectors
- Medium for the Message
 - Electronic, Hard Copy or Both
 - Word-of-Mouth
 - Presentations at conferences, meetings and symposiums



Questions?

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