

CHAPTER 6G. TYPE OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL ZONE ACTIVITIES

Section 6G.01 Typical Applications

Support:

Each temporary traffic control zone is different. Many variables, such as location of work, road type, geometrics, vertical and horizontal alignment, intersections, interchanges, road user volumes, road vehicle mix (buses, trucks, and cars), and road user speeds affect the needs of each zone. The goal of temporary traffic control in work zones is safety with minimum disruption to road users. The key factor in promoting temporary traffic control zone safety is proper judgment.

Typical applications (TAs) of temporary traffic control zones are organized according to duration, location, type of work, and highway type. Table 6H-1 is an index of these typical applications. These typical applications include the use of various temporary traffic control methods, but do not include a layout for every conceivable work situation.

Guidance:

Typical applications should be altered, when necessary, to fit the conditions of a particular temporary traffic control zone.

Option:

Other devices may be added to supplement the devices shown in the typical applications, while others may be deleted. The sign spacings and taper lengths may be increased to provide additional time or space for driver response.

Support:

Decisions regarding the selection of the most appropriate typical application to use as a guide for a specific temporary traffic control zone require an understanding of each situation. Although there are many ways of categorizing work zone applications, the four factors mentioned earlier (work duration, work location, work type, and highway type) are used to characterize the typical applications illustrated in Chapter 6H.

Section 6G.02 Work Duration

Support:

Work duration is a major factor in determining the number and types of devices used in temporary traffic control zones. The duration of a temporary traffic control zone is defined relative to the length of time a work operation occupies a spot location.

Standard:

The five categories of work duration and their time at a location shall be:

- A. Long-term stationary is work that occupies a location more than 3 days.**
- B. Intermediate-term stationary is work that occupies a location more than one daylight period up to 3 days, or nighttime work lasting more than 1 hour.**
- C. Short-term stationary is daytime work that occupies a location for more than 1 hour, but less than 12 hours.**
- D. Short duration is work that occupies a location up to 1 hour.**
- E. Mobile is work that moves intermittently or continuously.**

Support:

At long-term stationary temporary traffic control zones, there is ample time to install and realize benefits from the full range of temporary traffic control procedures and devices that are available for use. Generally, larger channelizing devices, temporary roadways, and temporary traffic barriers are used.

Standard:

Since long-term operations extend into nighttime, retroreflective and/or illuminated devices shall be used in long-term stationary temporary traffic control zones.

Guidance:

Inappropriate markings in long-term stationary temporary traffic control zones should be removed and replaced with temporary markings.

Support:

In intermediate-term stationary temporary traffic control zones, it may not be feasible or practical to use procedures or devices that would be desirable for long-term stationary temporary traffic control zones, such as altered pavement markings, temporary traffic barriers, and temporary roadways. The increased time to place and remove these devices in some cases could significantly lengthen the project, thus increasing exposure time. In other instances, there might be insufficient pay-back time to economically justify more elaborate temporary traffic control measures.

Standard:

Since intermediate-term operations extend into nighttime, retroreflective and/or illuminated devices shall be used in intermediate-term stationary temporary traffic control zones.

Support:

Most maintenance and utility operations are short-term stationary work.

As compared to stationary operations, mobile and short-duration operations are activities that might involve different treatments. Devices having greater mobility might be necessary such as signs mounted on trucks. Devices that are larger, more imposing, or more visible can be used effectively and economically. The mobility of the temporary traffic control zone is important.

Maintaining safe work and road user conditions is a paramount goal in carrying out mobile operations.

Guidance:

Safety in short-duration or mobile operations should not be compromised by using fewer devices simply because the operation will frequently change its location.

Option:

Appropriately colored or marked vehicles with rotating/strobe lights, perhaps augmented with signs or arrow panels, may be used in place of signs and channelizing devices for short-duration or mobile operations.

Support:

During short-duration work, it often takes longer to set up and remove the temporary traffic control zone than to perform the work. Workers face hazards in setting up and taking down the temporary traffic control zone. Also, since the work time is short, delays affecting road users are significantly increased when additional devices are installed and removed.

Option:

Considering these factors, simplified control procedures may be warranted for short-duration work. A reduction in the number of devices may be offset by the use of other more dominant devices such as rotating lights or strobe lights on work vehicles.

Support:

Mobile operations often involve frequent short stops for activities such as litter cleanup, pothole patching, or utility operations, and are similar to short-duration operations.

Guidance:

Warning signs, rotating/strobe lights on a vehicle, flags, and/or channelizing devices should be used and moved periodically to keep them near the mobile work area.

Option:

Flaggers may be used for mobile operations.

Support:

Mobile operations also include work activities where workers and equipment move along the road without stopping, usually at slow speeds. The advance warning area moves with the work area.

Guidance:

When mobile operations are being performed, a shadow vehicle equipped with an arrow panel or a sign should follow the work vehicle, especially when motor vehicle traffic speeds or volumes are high. Where feasible, warning signs should be placed along the roadway and moved periodically as work progresses.

Under high-volume conditions, consideration should be given to scheduling mobile operations work during off-peak hours.

If there are mobile operations on a high-speed travel lane of a multilane divided highway, arrow panels should be used.

Option:

For mobile operations that move at speeds less than 4 km/h (3 mph), mobile signs or stationary signing that is periodically retrieved and repositioned in the advance warning area may be used.

At higher speeds, vehicles may be used as components of the temporary traffic control zones for mobile operations. Appropriately colored and marked vehicles with signs, flags, rotating/strobe lights, truck-mounted attenuators, and arrow panels or portable changeable message signs may follow a train of moving work vehicles.

For some continuously moving operations, such as street sweeping and snow removal, a single work vehicle with appropriate warning devices on the vehicle may be used to provide warning to approaching road users.

Standard:

Mobile operations that move at speeds greater than 30 km/h (20 mph), such as pavement marking operations, shall have appropriate devices on the equipment (that is, rotating lights, signs, or special lighting), or shall use a separate vehicle with appropriate warning devices.

Section 6G.03 Location of Work

Support:

The choice of temporary traffic control needed for a temporary traffic control zone depends upon where the work is located. As a general rule, the closer the work is to road users, the greater the number of temporary traffic control devices that are needed. Procedures are described later in this Chapter for establishing temporary traffic control zones in the following locations:

- A. Outside the shoulder;
- B. On the shoulder with no encroachment;
- C. On the shoulder with minor encroachment;
- D. Within the median; and
- E. Within the traveled way.

Standard:

When the work space is within the traveled way, except for short-duration and mobile operations, advance warning shall provide a general message that work is taking place, shall supply information about highway conditions, and shall indicate how motor vehicle traffic can move through the temporary traffic control zone.

Section 6G.04 Modifications To Fulfill Special Needs

Support:

The typical applications in Chapter 6H illustrate commonly encountered situations in which temporary traffic control devices are employed.

Option:

Other devices may be added to supplement the devices indicated in the typical applications, and device spacing may be adjusted to provide additional reaction time. When conditions are less complex than those depicted in the typical applications, fewer devices may be needed.

Guidance:

When conditions are more complex, typical applications should be modified by incorporating appropriate devices and practices from the following list:

A. Additional devices:

1. Signs
2. Arrow panels
3. More channelizing devices at closer spacing
4. Temporary raised pavement markers
5. High-level warning devices
6. Portable changeable message signs
7. Temporary traffic signals
8. Temporary traffic barriers
9. Crash cushions
10. Screens
11. Rumble strips
12. More delineation

B. Upgrading of devices:

1. A full complement of standard pavement markings
2. Brighter and/or wider pavement markings
3. Larger and/or brighter signs
4. Channelizing devices with greater conspicuity

5. Temporary traffic barriers in place of channelizing devices
- C. Improved geometrics at detours or crossovers, giving particular attention to the provisions set forth in Chapter 6B
 - D. Increased distances:
 1. Longer advance warning area
 2. Longer tapers
 - E. Lighting:
 1. Temporary roadway lighting
 2. Steady-burn lights used with channelizing devices
 3. Flashing lights for isolated hazards
 4. Illuminated signs
 5. Floodlights

Support:

Uniformity of devices and their application is always of paramount importance.

As noted earlier, temporary traffic barriers are not temporary traffic control devices in themselves; however, when placed in a position identical to a line of channelizing devices and marked and/or equipped with appropriate channelization features to provide guidance and warning both day and night, they serve as temporary traffic control devices.

Standard:

Temporary traffic barriers serving as temporary traffic control devices shall conform to requirements for such devices as set forth throughout Part 6.

Section 6G.05 Work Outside of Shoulder

Support:

When work is being performed off the roadway (beyond the shoulders, but within the right-of-way), little or no temporary traffic control may be needed. Temporary traffic control generally is not needed where work is confined to an area 4.5 m (15 ft) or more from the edge of the traveled way. However, temporary traffic control is appropriate where distracting situations

exist, such as vehicles parked on the shoulder, vehicles accessing the work site via the highway, and equipment traveling on or crossing the roadway to perform the work operations (for example, mowing). For work beyond the shoulder, see Figure 6H-1.

Guidance:

Where the above situations exist, a single warning sign, such as ROAD WORK AHEAD, should be used. If the equipment travels on the roadway, the equipment should be equipped with appropriate flags, rotating/strobe lights, and/or a SLOW MOVING VEHICLE symbol.

Option:

If work vehicles are on the shoulder, a SHOULDER WORK sign may be used. For mowing operations, the sign MOWING AHEAD may be used.

Where the activity is spread out over a distance of more than 3.2 km (2 mi), the SHOULDER WORK sign may be repeated every 1.6 km (1 mi).

A supplementary plaque with the message NEXT X KM (MILES) may be used.

Guidance:

A general warning sign like ROAD MACHINERY AHEAD should be used if workers and equipment must occasionally move closer to the traveled way.

Section 6G.06 Work on the Shoulder with No Encroachment

Support:

The provisions of this Section apply to short-term through long-term stationary operations.

Standard:

When paved shoulders having a width of 2.4 m (8 ft) or more are closed, at least one advance warning sign shall be used. In addition, channelizing devices shall be used to close the shoulder in advance to delineate the beginning of the work space and direct motor vehicle traffic to remain within the traveled way.

Guidance:

When a highway shoulder is occupied, a SHOULDER WORK sign, except for short duration and mobile operations, should be placed in advance of the activity area. When

work is performed on a paved shoulder 2.4 m (8 ft) or more in width, channelizing devices should be placed on a taper having a length that conforms to the requirements of a shoulder taper.

When paved shoulders having a width of 2.4 m (8 ft) or more are closed on expressways and freeways, road users should be warned about potential disabled vehicles that cannot get off the traveled way. An initial general warning sign (such as ROAD WORK AHEAD) should be used, followed by a RIGHT or LEFT SHOULDER CLOSED sign. Where the end of the shoulder closure extends beyond the distance which can be perceived by road users, a supplementary plaque bearing the message NEXT X METERS (FEET) or KM (MILES) should be placed below the SHOULDER CLOSED sign. On multilane, divided highways, signs advising of shoulder work or the condition of the shoulder should be placed only on the side of the affected shoulder.

When an improved shoulder is closed on a high-speed roadway, it should be treated as a closure of a portion of the road system because road users expect to be able to use it in emergencies. Road users should be given ample advance warning that shoulders are closed for use as refuge areas throughout a specified length of the approaching temporary traffic control zone. The sign(s) should read SHOULDER CLOSED with distances indicated. The work space on the shoulder should be closed off by a taper or channelizing devices with a length of $0.33 L$ using the formulas in Table 6C-2.

When the shoulder is not occupied but work has adversely affected its condition, the LOW SHOULDER or SOFT SHOULDER sign should be used, as appropriate.

Where the condition extends over a distance in excess of 1.6 km (1 mi), the sign should be repeated at 1.6 km (1 mi) intervals.

Option:

In addition, a supplementary plaque bearing the message NEXT X KM (MILES) may be used. Temporary traffic barriers may be needed to inhibit encroachment of errant vehicles into the work space and to protect workers.

Standard:

When used for shoulder work, arrow panels shall operate only in the caution mode.

Support:

A typical application for stationary work operations on shoulders is shown in Figure 6H-3. Short duration or mobile work on shoulders is shown in Figure 6H-4. Work on freeway shoulders is shown in Figure 6H-5.

Section 6G.07 Work on the Shoulder with Minor Encroachment**Guidance:**

When work takes up part of a lane, motor vehicle traffic volumes, vehicle mix (buses, trucks, and cars), speed, and capacity, should be analyzed to determine whether the affected lane should be closed. Unless the lane encroachment permits a remaining lane width of 3 m (10 ft), the lane should be closed.

Truck off-tracking should be considered when determining whether the minimum lane width of 3 m (10 ft) is adequate.

Option:

A lane width of 2.7 m (9 ft) may be used for short-term stationary work on low-volume, low-speed roadways when motor vehicle traffic does not include longer and wider heavy commercial vehicles.

Support:

Figure 6H-6 illustrates a method for handling motor vehicle traffic where the stationary or short duration work space encroaches slightly into the traveled way.

Section 6G.08 Work Within the Median**Guidance:**

If work in the median of a divided highway is within 4.5 m (15 ft) from the edge of the traveled way for either direction of travel, temporary traffic control should be used through the use of advance warning signs and channelizing devices.

Section 6G.09 Work Within the Traveled Way of Two-Lane Highways**Support:**

Detour signs are used to direct road users onto another roadway. At diversions, road users are directed onto a temporary roadway or alignment placed within or adjacent to the right-of-way. Typical applications for detouring or diverting road users on two-lane highways are shown in Figures 6H-7, 6H-8, and 6H-9. Figure 6H-7 illustrates the controls around an area where a section of roadway has been closed and a diversion has been constructed. Channelizing devices and pavement markings are used to indicate the transition to the temporary roadway.

Guidance:

When a detour is long, Detour Marker (M4-8) or Detour (M4-9) signs should be installed to remind and reassure road users periodically that they are still successfully following the detour.

When an entire roadway is closed, as illustrated in Figure 6H-8, a detour should be provided and road users should be warned in advance of the closure, which in this example is a closure 16 km (10 mi) from the intersection. If local road users are allowed to use the roadway up to the closure, the ROAD CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC sign should be used. The portion of the road open to local road users should have adequate signing, marking, and delineation.

Detours should be signed so that road users will be able to traverse the entire detour route and back to the original roadway as shown in Figure 6H-9.

Support:

Techniques for controlling motor vehicle traffic under one-lane, two-way conditions are described in Section 6C.10.

Option:

Flaggers may be used as shown in Figure 6H-10.

STOP/YIELD sign control may be used on low-volume roads as shown in Figure 6H-11.

A temporary traffic control signal may be used as shown in Figure 6H-12.

Section 6G.10 Work Within the Traveled Way of Urban Streets**Support:**

In urban temporary traffic control zones, decisions are needed on how to control motor vehicle traffic, such as how many lanes are required, whether any turns should be prohibited at intersections, and how to maintain access to business, industrial, and residential areas.

Pedestrian traffic needs separate attention. Chapter 6D contains information regarding controlling pedestrian movements near work zones.

Standard:

If the temporary traffic control zone affects the movement of pedestrians, adequate pedestrian access and walkways shall be provided.

If the temporary traffic control zone affects the movement of bicyclists, adequate access to the roadway, bicycle paths, or shared-use paths shall be provided (see Part 9).

Guidance:

If a designated bicycle route is closed because of the work being done, a signed alternate route should be provided. Bicyclists should not be directed onto the path used by pedestrians.

Support:

Utility work takes place both within and outside the roadway to construct and maintain services such as power, gas, light, water, or telecommunications. Operations often involve intersections, since that is where many of the network junctions occur. The work force is usually small, only a few vehicles are involved, and the number and types of temporary traffic control devices placed in the temporary traffic control zone is usually minimal.

Standard:

All temporary traffic control devices shall be retroreflective or illuminated if utility work is performed during nighttime hours.

Guidance:

As discussed under short-duration projects, however, the reduced number of devices in utility work zones should be offset by the use of high-visibility devices, such as rotating lights or strobe lights on work vehicles.

Support:

Figures 6H-6, 6H-10, 6H-15, 6H-18, 6H-21, 6H-22, 6H-23, 6H-26, and 6H-33 are examples of typical applications for utility operations. Other typical applications might apply as well.

Section 6G.11 Work Within the Traveled Way of Multilane, Nonaccess Controlled Highways

Support:

Work on multilane (two or more lanes in one direction) highways is divided into right-lane closures, left-lane closures, interior-lane closures, multiple-lane closures, and closures on five-lane roadways.

Standard:

When a lane is closed on a multilane road, a transition area containing a merging taper shall be used.

Guidance:

When justified by an engineering study, temporary traffic barriers should be used to prevent incursions of errant vehicles into hazardous areas or work space.

Standard:

When temporary traffic barriers are placed immediately adjacent to the traveled way, they shall be equipped with appropriate channelizing devices, delineation, and/or other temporary traffic control devices. For lane closures, the merging taper shall use channelizing devices and the temporary traffic barrier shall be placed beyond the transition area.

Support:

It must be recognized that although temporary traffic barriers are shown in several of the typical applications of Chapter 6H, they are not considered to be temporary traffic control devices in themselves.

Figure 6H-34 illustrates a lane closure in which temporary traffic barriers are used.

There are four primary functions of temporary traffic barriers:

- A. To keep motor vehicle traffic from entering work areas, such as excavations or material storage sites;
- B. To separate workers, bicyclists, and pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic;
- C. To separate opposing directions of motor vehicle traffic; and
- D. To separate motor vehicle traffic, bicyclists, and pedestrians from the work area such as false work for bridges and other exposed objects.

Option:

When the right lane is closed, temporary traffic control similar to that shown in Figure 6H-33 may be used for undivided or divided four-lane roads.

Guidance:

If morning and evening peak hourly motor vehicle traffic volumes in the two directions are uneven and the greater volume is on the side where the work is being done in the right lane, consideration should be given to closing the inside lane for opposing motor vehicle traffic and making the lane available to the side with heavier motor vehicle traffic, as shown in Figure 6H-31.

If the larger motor vehicle traffic volume changes to the opposite direction at a different time of the day, the temporary traffic control should be changed to allow two lanes for opposing motor vehicle traffic by moving the devices from the opposing lane back to the centerline. When it is necessary to create a temporary centerline that is not consistent with the pavement markings, channelizing devices should be used and closely spaced.

Option:

When closing a left lane on a multilane undivided road, as motor vehicle traffic flow permits, the two interior lanes may be closed, as shown in Figure 6H-30, to provide drivers and workers additional lateral clearance and to provide access to the work space.

Standard:

When only the left lane is closed on undivided roads, channelizing devices shall be placed along the centerline as well as along the adjacent lane.

Guidance:

When an interior lane is closed, an adjacent lane should also be considered for closure to provide additional space for vehicles and materials and to facilitate the movement of equipment within the work space.

When multiple lanes in one direction are closed, a capacity analysis should be made to determine the number of lanes needed to accommodate motor vehicle traffic needs. Motor vehicle traffic should be moved over one lane at a time. As shown in Figure 6H-37, the tapers should be separated by a distance of $2L$, with L being determined by the formulas in Table 6C-2.

Standard:

When a directional roadway is closed, inapplicable WRONG WAY signs and markings, and other existing traffic control devices at intersections within the temporary two-lane, two-way operations section shall be covered, removed, or obliterated.

Option:

When half the road is closed on an undivided highway, both directions of motor vehicle traffic may be accommodated as shown in Figure 6H-32. When both interior lanes are closed, temporary traffic controls may be used as indicated in Figure 6H-30. When a roadway must be closed on a divided highway, a median crossover may be used (see Section 6G.15).

Support:

Temporary traffic control for lane closures on five-lane roads is similar to other multilane undivided roads. Figure 6H-32 can be adapted for use on five-lane roads. Figure 6H-35 can be used on a five-lane road for short duration and mobile operations.

Section 6G.12 Work Within the Traveled Way at an Intersection**Support:**

The typical applications for intersections are classified according to the location of the work space with respect to the intersection area (as defined by the extension of the curb or edge lines). The three classifications are near side, far side, and in-the-intersection. Work spaces often extend into more than one portion of the intersection. For example, work in one quadrant often creates a near-side work space on one street and a far-side work space on the cross street. In such instances, an appropriate temporary traffic control plan is obtained by combining features shown in two or more of the intersection and pedestrian typical applications.

Temporary traffic control zones in the vicinity of intersections might block movements and interfere with normal road user flows. Such conflicts frequently occur at more complex signalized intersections having such features as traffic signal heads over particular lanes, lanes allocated to specific movements, multiple signal phases, and signal detectors for actuated control.

Guidance:

The effect of the work upon signal operation should be considered, such as signal phasing for ensuring adequate capacity, maintaining or adjusting signal detectors, and ensuring the appropriate visibility of signal heads.

Standard:

When work will occur near signalized intersections where operational and capacity problems are anticipated, the highway agency having jurisdiction shall be contacted.

Guidance:

When work will occur near nonsignalized intersections where operational and capacity problems are anticipated, the highway agency having jurisdiction should be contacted.

For work at an intersection, advance warning signs, devices, and markings should be used on all cross streets, as appropriate. The typical applications depict urban intersections on arterial streets. Where the posted speed limit, the off-peak 85th-percentile speed prior to the work starting, or the anticipated speed exceeds 60 km/h (40 mph), additional warning signs should be used in the advance warning area.

Support:

Near-side work spaces, as depicted in Figure 6H-21, are simply handled as a midblock lane closure. A problem that might occur with near-side lane closure is a reduction in capacity, which during certain hours of operation could result in congestion and backups.

Option:

When near-side work spaces are used, an exclusive turn lane may be used for through motor vehicle traffic.

Where space is restricted in advance of near-side work spaces, as with short block spacings, two warning signs may be used in the advance warning area, and a third action-type warning or a regulatory sign (such as Keep Left) may be placed within the transition area.

Support:

Far-side work spaces, as depicted in Figures 6H-22 through 6H-25, involve additional treatment because road users typically enter the activity area by straight-through and left- or right-turning movements.

Guidance:

When a lane through an intersection must be closed on the far side, it should also be closed on the near-side approach to preclude merging movements within the intersection.

Option:

If, however, there are a significant number of vehicles turning from a near-side lane that is closed on the far side, the near-side lane may be converted to an exclusive turn lane.

Support:

Figures 6H-26 and 6H-27 provide guidance on applicable procedures for work performed within the intersection.

Option:

If the work is within the intersection, any of the following strategies may be used:

- A. A small work space so that road users can move around it, as shown in Figure 6H-26;
- B. Flaggers to assign the right-of-way, as shown in Figure 6H-27;

- C. Work in stages so the work space is kept small; and
- D. Road closures or upstream diversions to reduce road user volumes.

Guidance:

Depending on road user conditions, a flagger(s) and/or a uniformed law enforcement officer(s) should be used to control road users.

Section 6G.13 Work Within the Traveled Way of Expressways and Freeways

Support:

Problems of temporary traffic control might occur under the special conditions encountered where motor vehicle traffic must be moved through or around temporary traffic control zones on high-speed, high-volume roadways. Although the general principles outlined in the previous Sections of this Manual are applicable to all types of highways, high-speed, access-controlled highways need special attention in order to safely and efficiently accommodate motor vehicle traffic while also protecting work forces. The road user volumes, road vehicle mix (buses, trucks, and cars), and speed of vehicles on these facilities require that careful temporary traffic control procedures be implemented, for example, to induce critical merging maneuvers well in advance of work spaces and in a manner that creates minimum turbulence and delay in the motor vehicle traffic stream. These situations often require more conspicuous devices than specified for normal rural highway or urban street use. However, the same important basic considerations of uniformity and standardization of general principles apply for all roadways.

Work under high-speed, high-volume motor vehicle traffic on a controlled access highway is complicated by the roadway design and operational features. The presence of a median that establishes separate roadways for directional motor vehicle traffic flow might prohibit the closing of one of the roadways or the diverting of motor vehicle traffic to the other roadway. Lack of access to and from adjacent roadways prohibits rerouting of motor vehicle traffic away from the work space in many cases. Other conditions exist where work must be limited to night hours, thereby necessitating increased use of warning lights, illumination of work spaces, and advance warning systems.

Temporary traffic control for a typical lane closure on a divided highway is shown in Figure 6H-33. Temporary traffic controls for short duration and mobile operations on freeways are shown in Figure 6H-35. A typical application for shifting motor vehicle traffic lanes around a work space is shown in Figure 6H-36. Temporary traffic control for multiple and interior lane closures on a freeway is shown in Figures 6H-37 and 6H-38.

Guidance:

The method for closing an interior lane when the open lanes have the capacity to carry motor vehicle traffic should be as shown in Figure 6H-37. When the capacity of the other lanes is needed, the method shown in Figure 6H-38 should be used.

Section 6G.14 Two-Lane, Two-Way Traffic on One Roadway of a Normally Divided Highway

Support:

Two-lane, two-way operation on one roadway of a normally divided highway is a typical procedure that requires special consideration in the planning, design, and work phases, because unique operational problems (for example, increasing the risk of head-on crashes) can arise with the two-lane, two-way operation.

Standard:

When two-lane, two-way traffic control must be maintained on one roadway of a normally divided highway, opposing motor vehicle traffic shall be separated with either temporary traffic barriers (concrete safety-shape or approved alternate) or with channelizing devices throughout the length of the two-way operation. The use of markings and complementary signing, by themselves, shall not be used.

Support:

Figure 6H-39 shows the procedure for two-lane, two-way operation. Treatments for entrance and exit ramps within the two-way roadway segment of this type of work are shown in Figures 6H-40 and 6H-41.

Section 6G.15 Crossovers

Guidance:

The following are considered good guiding principles for the design of crossovers:

- A. Tapers for lane drops should be separated from the crossovers, as shown in Figure 6H-39.
- B. Crossovers should be designed for speeds no lower than 15 km/h (10 mph) below the posted speed, the off-peak 85th-percentile speed prior to the work starting, or the anticipated operating speed of the roadway, unless unusual site conditions require that a lower design speed be used.
- C. A good array of channelizing devices, delineators, and full-length, properly placed pavement markings should be used to provide drivers with a clearly defined travel path.
- D. The design of the crossover should accommodate all motor vehicle traffic, including trucks and buses.

Support:

Temporary traffic barriers and the excessive use of temporary traffic control devices cannot compensate for poor geometric and roadway cross-section design of crossovers.

Section 6G.16 Interchanges**Guidance:**

Access to interchange ramps on limited-access highways should be maintained even if the work space is in the lane adjacent to the ramps. Access to exit ramps should be clearly marked and delineated with channelizing devices. For long-term projects, conflicting pavement markings should be removed and new ones placed. Early coordination with officials having jurisdiction over the affected cross streets and providing emergency services should occur before ramp closings.

Option:

If access is not possible, ramps may be closed by using signs and Type III barricades. As the work space changes, the access area may be changed, as shown in Figure 6H-42. A temporary traffic control zone in the exit ramp may be handled as shown in Figure 6H-43.

When a work space interferes with an entrance ramp, a lane may need to be closed on the freeway. A temporary traffic control zone in the entrance ramp may require shifting ramp motor vehicle traffic. Temporary traffic control for both operations is shown in Figure 6H-44.

Section 6G.17 Movable Barriers**Support:**

Figure 6H-45 shows a temporary reversible lane using movable barriers.

Option:

If the work activity in Figure 6H-34 permits, a movable barrier may be used and relocated to the shoulder during nonwork periods or peak-period motor vehicle traffic conditions.

Section 6G.18 Work in the Vicinity of Highway-Rail Grade Crossings**Standard:**

When highway-rail grade crossings exist either within or in the vicinity of a temporary traffic control zone, lane restrictions, flagging, or other operations shall not create conditions where vehicles can be stopped on the railroad tracks with no means of escape.

If the queuing of vehicles across the tracks cannot be avoided, a law enforcement officer or flagger shall be provided at the crossing to prevent vehicles from stopping on the tracks, even if automatic warning devices are in place.

Support:

Figure 6H-46 shows work in the vicinity of a highway-rail grade crossing.

Guidance:

Early coordination with the railroad company should occur before work starts.

Section 6G.19 Control of Traffic Through Incident Areas**Support:**

An incident is an emergency road user occurrence, a natural disaster, or a special event.

The primary functions of temporary traffic control at an incident area are to move road users safely and expeditiously through or around the incident, and to reduce the likelihood of secondary crashes. Examples include a stalled vehicle blocking a lane, a road user crash blocking the traveled way, a chemical spill along a highway, floods and severe storm damage, a planned visit by a dignitary, or a major sporting event.

Guidance:

In order to reduce response time for incident management, highway agencies should preplan for occurrences of incidents along the major and heavily traveled highway and street system. Special events should be planned for and coordinated in advance.

Support:

While some incidents might be anticipated and planned for, emergencies and disasters might pose more severe and unpredictable problems. The ability to install proper temporary traffic control might greatly reduce the effects of an emergency. An essential part of fire, rescue, spill clean-up, and enforcement activities is the proper control of road users through the incident area.

These operations need corroborating legislative authority for the implementation and enforcement of appropriate road user regulations, parking controls, and speed zoning. It is desirable for these statutes to provide sufficient flexibility in the authority for and implementation of temporary traffic control to respond to the needs of changing conditions found in incident areas.

Option:

For unexpected incidents, particularly those of an emergency nature, temporary traffic control devices on hand may be used for the initial response as long as they do not themselves create unnecessary additional hazards.

Standard:

If the incident is anticipated to last more than 3 days, applicable procedures and devices set forth in Part 6 shall be used.

Support:

A short-term road closure can be caused by an incident such as a road user crash that blocks the traveled way. Road users are usually detoured around the incident and back to the original roadway. A combination of traffic engineering and enforcement preparations is needed to determine the detour route and install the necessary devices. Large trucks are a significant concern in such a detour.

During incidents, large trucks might need to follow a route separate from that of automobiles because of bridge, weight, clearance, or geometric restrictions. Also, vehicles carrying hazardous cargo might need to follow a different route from other vehicles.

Some incidents such as hazardous spills might require closure of an entire highway. Through road users must have adequate guidance around the incident.

Maintaining good public relations is desirable. The cooperation of the news media in publicizing the existence of and reasons for incident areas and their temporary traffic control can be of great assistance in keeping road users and the general public well informed.

Guidance:

The channelizing devices discussed in Section 6F.55 should be used whenever possible.

When flares are used to initiate temporary traffic control at incidents or for short-term temporary traffic control, they should be replaced by more permanent devices as soon as practical.