TRAFFIC CONTROL DURING CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS (English Version)

The following guidelines shall assist field personnel in determining when and what type of traffic control patterns to use for various situations. These guidelines shall provide for the safe and efficient movement of traffic through work zones and enhance the safety of work forces in the work area.

TRAFFIC CONTROL PATTERNS: Traffic control patterns shall be used when a work operation requires that all or part of any vehicle or work area protrudes onto any part of a travel lane or shoulder. For each situation, the installation of traffic control devices shall be based on the following:

- Speed and volume of traffic
- Duration of operation
- Exposure to hazards

Traffic control patterns shall be uniform, neat and orderly so as to command respect from the motorist.

In the case of a horizontal or vertical sight restriction in advance of the work area, the traffic control pattern shall be extended to provide adequate sight distance for approaching traffic.

If a lane reduction taper is required to shift traffic, the entire length of the taper should be installed on a tangent section of roadway so that the entire taper area can be seen by the motorist.

Any existing signs that are in conflict with the traffic control patterns shall be removed, covered, or turned so that they are not readable by oncoming traffic.

When installing a traffic control pattern, a Buffer Area should be provided and this area shall be free of equipment, workers, materials and parked vehicles.

Typical traffic control plans 20 through 25 may be used for moving operations such as line striping, pot hole patching, mowing, or sweeping when it is necessary for equipment to occupy a travel lane.

Traffic control patterns will not be required when vehicles are on an emergency patrol type activity or when a short duration stop is made and the equipment can be contained within the shoulder. Flashing lights and appropriate trafficperson shall be used when required.

Although each situation must be dealt with individually, conformity with the typical traffic control plans contained herein is required. In a situation not adequately covered by the typical traffic control plans, the Contractor must contact the Engineer for assistance prior to setting up a traffic control pattern.

PLACEMENT OF SIGNS: Signs must be placed in such a position to allow motorists the opportunity to reduce their speed prior to the work area. Signs shall be installed on the same side
of the roadway as the work area. On multi-lane divided highways, advance warning signs may be installed on both sides of the highway. On directional roadways (on-ramps, off-ramps, one-way roads), where the sight distance to signs is restricted, these signs should be installed on both sides of the roadway.

**Allowable Adjustment of Signs and Devices**

*Shown on the Traffic Control Plans*

The traffic control plans contained herein show the location and spacing of signs and devices under ideal conditions. Signs and devices should be installed as shown on these plans whenever possible.

The proper application of the traffic control plans and installation of traffic control devices depends on actual field conditions.

Adjustments to the traffic control plans shall be made only at the direction of the Engineer to improve the visibility of the signs and devices and to better control traffic operations. Adjustments to the traffic control plans shall be based on safety of work forces and motorists, abutting property requirements, driveways, side roads, and the vertical and horizontal curvature of the roadway.

The Engineer may require that the traffic control pattern be located significantly in advance of the work area to provide better sight line to the signing and safer traffic operations through the work zone.

Table I indicates the minimum taper length required for a lane closure based on the posted speed limit of the roadway. These taper lengths shall only be used when the recommended taper lengths shown on the traffic control plans cannot be achieved.

**TABLE I – MINIMUM TAPER LENGTHS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSTED SPEED LIMIT MILES PER HOUR</th>
<th>MINIMUM TAPER LENGTH IN FEET FOR A SINGLE LANE CLOSURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 OR LESS</td>
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SECTION 1. WORK ZONE SAFETY MEETINGS

1.a) Prior to the commencement of work, a work zone safety meeting will be conducted with representatives of DOT Construction, Connecticut State Police (Local Barracks), Municipal Police, the Contractor (Project Superintendent) and the Traffic Control Subcontractor (if different than the prime Contractor) to review the contract requirements and discuss the Department’s procedures. Other work zone safety meetings during the course of the project should be scheduled as needed.

1.b) A Work Zone Safety Meeting Agenda, (see Section 9), shall be developed and used at the meeting to outline the anticipated traffic control issues during the construction of this project. Any issues that can’t be resolved at these meetings will be brought to the attention of the District Engineer and the Office of Construction.

SECTION 2. INSTALLING AND REMOVING TRAFFIC CONTROL PATTERNS

2.a) Lane Closures shall be installed beginning with the advanced warning signs and proceeding forward toward the work area.

2.b) Lane Closures shall be removed in the reverse order, beginning at the work area, or end of the traffic control pattern, and proceeding back toward the advanced warning signs.

2.c) Stopping traffic may be allowed:

- As per the contract for such activities as blasting, steel erection, etc.

- During paving, milling operations, etc. where, in the middle of the operation, it is necessary to flip the pattern to complete the operation on the other half of the roadway and traffic should not travel across the longitudinal joint or difference in roadway elevation.

- To move slow moving equipment across live traffic lanes into the work area.

2.d) Under certain situations when the safety of the traveling public and/or that of the workers may be compromised due to conditions such as traffic volume, speed, roadside obstructions, or sight line deficiencies, as determined by the Engineer and/or State Police, traffic may be briefly impeded while installing and/or removing the advanced warning signs and the first ten traffic cones/drums only. Appropriate measures shall be taken to safely slow traffic. If required, State Police may use traffic slowing techniques, including the use of Truck Mounted Impact Attenuators (TMAs) as appropriate, for a minimum of one mile in advance of the pattern starting point. Once the advanced warning signs and the first ten traffic cones/drums are installed/removed, the two TMAs and sign crew should continue to install/remove the pattern as described in Section 4c and traffic shall be allowed to resume their normal travel.
2.e) The Contractor must adhere to using the proper signs, placing the signs correctly, and ensuring the proper spacing of signs.

2.f) Additional devices are required on entrance ramps, exit ramps, and intersecting roads to warn and/or move traffic into the proper travelpath prior to merging/exiting with/from the main line traffic. This shall be completed before installing the mainline pattern past the ramp or intersecting roadway.

2.g) Prior to installing a pattern, any conflicting existing signs shall be covered with an opaque material. Once the pattern is removed, the existing signs shall be uncovered.

2.h) On limited access roadways, workers are prohibited from crossing the travel lanes to install and remove signs or other devices on the opposite side of the roadway. Any signs or devices on the opposite side of the roadway shall be installed and removed separately.

SECTION 3. USE OF HIGH MOUNTED INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED FLASHING ARROW

3.a) On limited access roadways, one Flashing Arrow shall be used for each lane that is closed. The Flashing Arrow shall be installed concurrently with the installation of the traffic control pattern and its placement shall be as shown on the traffic control plan. For multiple lane closures, one Flashing Arrow is required for each lane closed. If conditions warrant, additional Flashing Arrows should be employed (i.e.: curves, major ramps, etc.).

3.b) On non-limited access roadways, the use of a Flashing Arrow for lane closures is optional. The roadway geometry, sight line distance, and traffic volume should be considered in the decision to use the Flashing Arrow.

3.c) The Flashing Arrow shall not be used on two lane, two-way roadways for temporary alternating one-way traffic operations.

3.d) The Flashing Arrow board display shall be in the “arrow” mode for lane closures and in the “caution” mode for shoulder work, blocking the shoulder, or roadside work near the shoulder. The Flashing Arrow shall be in the “caution” mode when it is positioned in the closed lane.

3.e) The Flashing Arrow shall not be used on a multi-lane roadway to laterally shift all lanes of traffic, because unnecessary lane changing may result.

3.f) If the required number of Flashing Arrows is not available, the traffic control pattern shall not be installed.
SECTION 4. USE OF TRUCK MOUNTED IMPACT ATTENUATOR VEHICLES (TMAs)

4.a) For lane closures on limited access roadways, a minimum of two TMAs shall be used to install and remove traffic control patterns. If two TMAs are not available, the pattern shall not be installed.

4.b) On non-limited access roadways, the use of TMAs to install and remove patterns closing a lane(s) is optional. The roadway geometry, sight line distance, and traffic volume should be considered in the decision to utilize the TMAs.

4.c) Generally, to establish the advance and transition signing, one TMA shall be placed on the shoulder and the second TMA shall be 1000 feet ahead blocking the lane. The sign truck and workers should be immediately ahead of the second TMA. In no case shall the TMA blocking the lane be used as the sign truck. Once the transition is in place, both TMAs shall travel in the closed lane until all Changeable Message Signs, signs, Flashing Arrows, and cones/drums are installed.

4.d) A TMA shall be placed prior to the first work area in the pattern. If there are multiple work areas within the same pattern, then additional TMAs may be positioned at each additional work area as needed.

4.e) TMAs shall be positioned a sufficient distance prior to the workers or equipment being protected to allow for appropriate vehicle roll-ahead in the event that the TMA is hit, but not so far that an errant vehicle could travel around the TMA and into the work area. For additional placement and use details, refer to the specification entitled “Type ‘D’ Portable Impact Attenuation System”. Some operations, such as paving and concrete repairs, do not allow for placement of the TMA(s) within the specified distances. In these situations, the TMA(s) should be placed at the beginning of the work area and shall be advanced as the paving or concrete operations proceed.

4.f) TMAs should be paid in accordance with how the unit is utilized. When it is used as a TMA and is in the proper location as specified, then it should be paid at the specified hourly rate for “Type ‘D’ Portable Impact Attenuation System”. When the TMA is used as a Flashing Arrow, it should be paid at the daily rate for “High Mounted Internally Illuminated Flashing Arrow”. If a TMA is used to install and remove a pattern and then is used as a Flashing Arrow, the unit should be paid as a “Type ‘D’ Portable Impact Attenuation System” for the hours used to install and remove the pattern, typically 2 hours (1 hour to install and 1 hour to remove), and is also paid for the day as a “High Mounted Internally Illuminated Flashing Arrow”.

4.g) If the required number of TMAs is not available, the pattern shall not be installed.
SECTION 5. USE OF STATE POLICE OFFICERS

5.a) State Police may be utilized only on limited access highways and secondary roadways under their primary jurisdiction. At least one Officer should be used per critical sign pattern. Shoulder closures and right lane closures can generally be implemented without the presence of a State Police Officer. Likewise in areas with moderate traffic and wide, unobstructed medians, left lane closures can be implemented without State Police presence. Certain situations may require State Police presence, if one is available, even though the general guidelines above indicate otherwise. Examples of this include: nighttime lane closures; left lane closures with minimal width for setting up advance signs and staging; lane and shoulder closures on turning roadways/ramps or mainline where sight distance is minimal; and closures where extensive turning movements or traffic congestion regularly occur.

5.b) Once the pattern is in place, the State Police Officer should be positioned in a non-hazardous location at the beginning of the pattern or at one of the work areas not protected by a TMA. If traffic backs up beyond the beginning of the pattern, then the State Police Officer should be repositioned prior to the backup to give warning to the oncoming motorists. Where State Police Officer and TMA are in proximity to each other, the TMA should be placed to protect the State Police Officer’s vehicle from oncoming traffic.

5.c) Other functions of the State Police Officer(s) shall include:

* Assisting entering/exiting construction vehicles within the work area.
* Enhancing worker visibility/safety for workers in close proximity to the open travel lane(s).
* Speed control of traffic within the work area.
* Enforcement of speed and other motor vehicle laws within the work area.

Typically, the State Police Officer should be out of the vehicle for the functions marked with an asterisk (*).

5.d) “Trafficpersons assigned to a work site are to only take direction from the Engineer”, as specified in the Item entitled “Trafficperson”.

SECTION 6. USE OF (REMOTE CONTROL) CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

6.a) For lane closures on limited access roadways, one Changeable Message Sign shall be used in advance of the traffic control pattern. Prior to installing the pattern, the Changeable Message Sign shall be installed and in operation, displaying the appropriate lane closure information (i.e.: Left Lane Closed - Merge Right). The Changeable Message Sign shall be positioned ½ - 1 mile ahead of the lane closure taper. If the nearest Exit ramp is greater than the specified ½ - 1 mile distance, then an additional
Changeable Message Sign shall be positioned a sufficient distance ahead of the Exit ramp to alert motorists of the lane closure and provide them an opportunity to take the exit.

6.b) On non-limited access roadways, the use of Changeable Message Signs for lane closures is optional. The roadway geometry, sight line distance, and traffic volume should be considered in the decision to use the Changeable Message Sign.

6.c) The advance Changeable Message Sign is typically placed off the right shoulder, 5 feet from the edge of pavement. In areas where the Changeable Message Sign cannot be placed beyond the edge of pavement, it may be placed on the paved shoulder with a minimum of five (5) traffic drums placed in a taper in front of it to delineate its position. The advance Changeable Message Sign shall be adequately protected if it is used for a continuous duration of 36 hours or more.

6.d) When the Changeable Message Signs are no longer required, they should be removed from the clear zone and have the display screen cleared and turned 90° away from the roadway.

6.e) The Changeable Message Sign generally should not be used for generic messages (ex: Road Work Ahead, Bump Ahead, Gravel Road, etc.).

6.f) The Changeable Message Sign should be used for specific situations that need to command the motorist’s attention which cannot be conveyed with standard construction signs (Examples include: Exit 34 Closed Sat/Sun - Use Exit 35, All Lanes Closed - Use Shoulder, Workers on Road - Slow Down).

6.g) Messages that need to be displayed for long periods of time, such as during stage construction, should be displayed with construction signs. For special signs, please coordinate with the Office of Construction and the Division of Traffic Engineering for the proper layout/dimensions required.

6.h) Section 10 contains the messages that are allowed on the Changeable Message Sign. For any other message(s), approval must be received from the Office of Construction prior to their use. No more than two (2) displays shall be used within any message cycle.

6.i) If the required number of Changeable Message Signs is not available, the pattern shall not be installed.

SECTION 7. USE OF TRAFFIC DRUMS AND TRAFFIC CONES

7.a) Traffic drums shall be used for taper channelization on limited-access roadways, ramps, and turning roadways and to delineate raised catch basins and other hazards.

7.b) Traffic drums shall be used in place of traffic cones in traffic control patterns that are in effect for more than a 72-hour duration.
7.c) Traffic Cones less than 42 inches in height shall not be used on limited-access roadways or on non-limited access roadways with a posted speed limit of 45 mph and above.

7.d) Typical spacing of traffic drums and/or cones shown on the Traffic Control Plans in the Contract are maximum spacings and may be reduced to meet actual field conditions as required.

SECTION 8. GENERAL

8.a) If the required minimum number of signs and equipment (i.e., one High Mounted Internally Illuminated Flashing Arrow for each lane closed, two TMAs, Changeable Message Sign, etc.) are not available, the traffic control pattern shall not be installed.

8.b) The Contractor shall have back-up equipment (TMAs, High Mounted Internally Illuminated Flashing Arrow, Changeable Message Sign, construction signs, cones/drums, etc.) available at all times in case of mechanical failures, etc. In the case of sudden equipment breakdowns, the pattern may be installed but the Contractor must provide replacement equipment within 24 hours.

8.c) Failure of the Contractor to have the required minimum number of signs and equipment, which results in the not being installed, shall not be a reason for a time extension.

8.d) In cases of legitimate differences of opinion between the Contractor and the Inspection staff, the Inspection staff shall err on the side of safety. The matter shall be brought to the District Office for resolution immediately or, in the case of work after regular business hours, on the next business day.

SECTION 9. WORK ZONE SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

1) Review Project scope of work and time.

2) Review Section 1.08, Prosecution and Progress of the Special Provisions.

3) Review Section 9.70, Trafficperson of the Specifications.


5) Review Contractor’s schedule and method of operations.

6) Review areas of special concern: ramps, turning roadways, medians, lane drops, etc.

7) Open discussion of work zone questions and issues.

8) Discussion of review and approval process for changes in contract requirements as they relate to work zone areas.
## SECTION 10. WORK ZONE SAFETY PROCEDURES - ALLOWABLE VMS MESSAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Message No.</th>
<th>Frame 1</th>
<th>Frame 2</th>
<th>Message No.</th>
<th>Frame 1</th>
<th>Frame 2</th>
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