TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL TYPICALS FOR TRAFFIC COUNTER TUBE WORK

June 2014







PREFACE

Temporary Traffic Control Typicals for Traffic Counter Tube Work

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to field staff on establishing temporary traffic control for traffic counter tube work requiring less than one-hour to complete, day or night, during non-inclement weather. Typical applications are illustrated for shoulder-closure and lane-encroachment scenarios for various types of roadway facilities, including ramps. This document is a supplement to, and does not supersede criteria promulgated by, the most recent editions of the SHA Book of Standards or the Maryland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. For applications not addressed in this document, refer to the most recent edition of the SHA Book of Standards.

The Table of Contents contains three tables of hyperlinks to typical applications of temporary traffic control for traffic counter tube work, one table each for three ranges of posted speed limit, as follows: 1) 20, 25 or 30 mph; 2) 35 or 40 mph; and 3) 45, 50 or 55 mph. To navigate to a typical traffic control application, enter the table associated with the roadway's posted speed limit and select the Plate Number (in blue text) associated with the roadway's number of lanes, directionality, cross section, shoulder usage, and the number of work (i.e., shadow) vehicles that will be deployed to the site where the traffic counter tubes will be set.

The following provides additional guidance associated with implementing temporary traffic control for traffic counter tube work:

- 1. <u>Traffic Cones</u>. Where used, ensure that traffic cones meet current Maryland SHA specifications for a 36" reflectorized traffic cone.
- 2. <u>Advanced Warning Signs</u>. Where used, ensure that advance warning signs meet current Maryland SHA specifications for a 48" x 48" fabric sign mounted on a foldable, weighted base, deploying a W20-1(1) sign for "ROAD WORK AHEAD" and a W5-4 sign for "RAMP NARROWS," as designated in the plates.
- 3. <u>Work / Shadow Vehicles</u>. At least one vehicle will be deployed to the site where the traffic counter tubes will be set; however, some field crews elect to deploy two vehicles. Each typical application designates the distance of the vehicle to the work site as well as the distance between vehicles when field crews elect to deploy two vehicles. Each vehicle must be equipped with a roof-mounted yellow flashing or revolving, high-intensity strobe light or light bar meeting current Maryland SHA specifications. Ensure that the company name and contact information is prominently displayed on each vehicle that is deployed. Once positioned, it is good practice to turn the front wheels of the stationary vehicle(s) away from travel lanes and engage the emergency brake.

- 4. <u>Vehicle Roof-Mounted Arrow Panel</u>. Some field crews elect to use a vehicle roof-mounted arrow panel as an integral part of their temporary traffic control setup. The advantage of using such a device is that it can be deployed and retracted automatically from within the cab of the vehicle and is typically visible to oncoming traffic 0.5 to 1 mile in advance of the work site. When used, ensure that the vehicle roof-mounted arrow panel meets current Maryland SHA specifications for a Type A 48" x 24" device, minimum, and that only the four-corner caution display mode is used for the typical applications addressed in this document.
- 5. <u>Field Crew</u>. Ensure that field crew staff have taken and passed a Maryland SHA-approved safety course prior to field deployment. Determine the number of field crew staff needed to install or remove traffic counter tubes and related equipment as follows: [Maximum Number of Staff Necessary to Perform the Work + One (1) Traffic Spotter]. For example, if a traffic counter tube set requires two people to physically set the tubes and equipment, then a field crew of three staff will be needed. This concept is to ensure the safety of the field crew in the traveled way who are focusing on the work, tubes and equipment, not the traffic. When the field crew is in the traveled way performing the work, the traffic spotter has one job to look for and warn the field crew of oncoming traffic. When field staff are not in the travel lanes, the traffic spotter typically performs other duties. The traffic spotter is positioned with a clear view of oncoming traffic, is not a flagger, does not control traffic, nor uses hand-held devices such as red flags. It is good practice for a traffic spotter to use a reliable audible device such as a whistle and to not rely entirely on verbal commands, which may be misunderstood.
- 6. <u>Field Crew Safety Attire</u>. Ensure safety attire meet current Maryland SHA specifications. Wear Class 3 safety vests for work performed during daylight hours. For work performed during nighttime hours, wear Class 3 trousers and safety vests. To enhance safety, consider other devices such as Class 3 ball caps, arm-band flashing lights, and head-band work lights.
- 7. <u>Field Crew Work Preparation</u>. Complete all preparatory work (e.g., mapping, route planning, inventory checks, cutting tape and tubes) prior to field deployment. It is good practice to perform a pre-installation reconnaissance to ascertain potential problems with the traffic counter set location or traffic control. To enhance safety, select a traffic counter set location that is not obscured by sharp horizontal or crest vertical curvature.
- 8. <u>Traffic Exposure Considerations</u>. A daylight period has better visibility but generally more traffic, and a nighttime period generally has less traffic but limited visibility. The typical applications presented in this document are appropriate for traffic counter tube work that requires less than one-hour to complete, day or night, during non-inclement weather for either Traffic Condition A or Traffic Condition B, as described below.
 - a. <u>Traffic Condition A Low Volume</u>: DESIRABLE. Vehicles approach the work zone somewhat randomly and generally present minimal conflict. Typified by:
 - A rough estimate of traffic volume at less than 5 vehicles per lane per minute.
 - Significant gaps exist in traffic flow.
 - Few vehicles are visible at any given time.
 - Random platoons of vehicles exist.
 - Free flow traffic at the posted speed limit.
 - Near unrestricted access exists to the work area.
 - Safe walking pace conditions exist across the roadway.

- b. <u>Traffic Condition B Moderate Volume</u>: ACCEPTABLE. The frequency of vehicles increases and more care and vigilance are required by the field crew to ensure safe work operations. Typified by:
 - A rough estimate of traffic volume at 12 vehicles per lane per minute.
 - Gaps in traffic are present, but may be more consistent.
 - Vehicles are generally present all the time.
 - Traffic is constant but still flows freely.
 - Generally free flow traffic speed at the posted limit.
 - Good work area access, but vehicles are usually present.
 - Safe walking pace conditions exist across the roadway, but may require waiting for a gap in traffic.
- c. <u>Traffic Condition C High Volume</u>: NOT RECOMMENDED. Vehicles are constantly present at this level. Typified by:
 - A rough estimate of 20 vehicles per lane per minute.
 - Minimal gaps exist in traffic.
 - Constantly present vehicles.
 - Restricted or unstable traffic flow.
 - Reduced traffic speeds, as volume starts to approach road capacity.
 - Unacceptable backups and delays.
 - A safe walking condition across the roadway may not exist.

Where Traffic Condition C exists and cannot be mitigated by selecting a time period that exhibits conditions similar to Traffic Condition A or Traffic Condition B, give consideration to using non-intrusive data collection methods, lane closures, traffic drags, and/or police assistance.

9. <u>Ramp Considerations</u>. Do not stage the field crew, vehicles or equipment in the gore area of an exit ramp. As practicable, avoid setting traffic counter tubes along a ramp just beyond the gore area, which is a location know to be used as a recovery area for errant vehicles attempting to exit the roadway. Do not travel in reverse along ramps to avoid tolls or save time traveling to another set location.

TABLE OF CONTENTS Temporary Traffic Control Typicals for Traffic Counter Tube Work POSTED SPEED LIMIT: 20, 25 or 30 MPH

# Lanes/Direction	Cross Section	Shoulder Usage	Roadway Impact	# Shadow Vehicles	Plate #
1-LANE, 1-WAY		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	19
				2	19C
	RAMP			1	17
	KAMP	USABLE SHOULDER	LEFT SHOULDER CLOSURE	2	17C
			RIGHT SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	18
				2	18C
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	11
2-LANE, 1-WAY				2	11B
2-LANE, 1-WAT		USABLE PARKING LANE	PARKING LANE CLOSURE	1	12
				2	12B
			LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	1
2-LANE, 2-WAY		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER		2	1C
	UNDIVIDED		SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	2
		USABLE SHOULDER		2	2C
				1	13
3-LANE, 1-WAY	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	2	13B
		USABLE PARKING LANE	PARKING LANE CLOSURE	1	14
				2	14B
	RAISED MEDIAN	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	7
				2	7C
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	8
4-LANE, 2-WAY				2	8C
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	3
				2	3C
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	4
				2	4C
	RAISED MEDIAN	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	9
				2	9C
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	10
6-LANE, 2-WAY				2	10C
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	5
				2	5C
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	6
				2	6C

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued) Temporary Traffic Control Typicals for Traffic Counter Tube Work POSTED SPEED LIMIT: 35 or 40 MPH

# Lanes/Direction	Cross Section	Shoulder Usage	Roadway Impact	# Shadow Vehicles	Plate #
1-LANE, 1-WAY		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER		1	19A
	RAMP		LANE ENCROACHMENT	2	19D
			LEFT SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	17A
		USABLE SHOULDER		2	17D
			RIGHT SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	18A
				2	18D
2-LANE, 1-WAY	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	11A
				2	11C
		USABLE PARKING LANE	PARKING LANE CLOSURE	1	12A
				2	12C
		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	1A
2-LANE, 2-WAY				2	1D
	UNDIVIDED			1	2A
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	2	2D
	UNDIVIDED		LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	13A
		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER		2	13C
3-LANE, 1-WAY			PARKING LANE CLOSURE	1	14A
		USABLE PARKING LANE		2	14C
	DIVIDED	USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	15
				2	15B
	RAISED MEDIAN		LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	7A
		NO OR NARROW SHOULDER		2	7D
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	8A
4-LANE, 2-WAY				2	8D
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	3A
				2	3D
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	4A
				2	4D
6-LANE, 2-WAY	DIVIDED	USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	16
				2	16B
	RAISED MEDIAN	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	9A
				2	9D
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	10A
				2	10D
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	5A
				2	5D
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	6A
				2	6D

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued) Temporary Traffic Control Typicals for Traffic Counter Tube Work POSTED SPEED LIMIT: 45, 50 or 55 MPH

# Lanes/Direction	Cross Section	Shoulder Usage	Roadway Impact	# Shadow Vehicles	Plate #
1-LANE, 1-WAY	RAMP	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	19B
				2	19E
		USABLE SHOULDER	LEFT SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	17B
				2	17E
			RIGHT SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	18B
				2	18E
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	1B
2-LANE, 2-WAY				2	1E
			SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	2B
		USABLE SHOULDER		2	2E
	DIVIDED	USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	15A
	DIVIDED			2	15C
	RAISED MEDIAN	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	7B
4-LANE, 2-WAY				2	7E
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	8B
				2	8E
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	3B
				2	3E
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	4B
				2	4E
	DIVIDED	USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	16A
6-LANE, 2-WAY				2	16C
	RAISED MEDIAN	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	9B
				2	9E
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	10B
				2	10E
	UNDIVIDED	NO OR NARROW SHOULDER	LANE ENCROACHMENT	1	5B
				2	5E
		USABLE SHOULDER	SHOULDER CLOSURE	1	6B
				2	6E











































































































































































































