

*TDOT WORK ZONE SAFETY AND MOBILITY MANUAL*

**Overview**

## OVERVIEW

Maintaining safety and mobility within Tennessee's roadway work zones is emerging as a new challenge for the state. This challenge has resulted from a rise in essential rehabilitation and reconstruction work combined with growing congestion on the state's roadways.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is committed to the planning and operation of all work zones under its authority in a manner that provides the highest level of safety for both motorists and workers while also promoting minimum travel delays with the least adverse impacts to local communities.

## Purpose of Document

In September 2004, the Federal Highway Administration of the USDOT published 23CFR630 Subpart J, the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule (the Final Rule). The Final Rule, applicable for any agency involved in Federal Aid project development, requires development of a multi-level process whereby the safety and operational aspects of every work zone are emphasized. State and local transportation agencies are required to comply with the Final Rule by October 12, 2007. The Final Rule is included as Appendix A.

The purpose of the TDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility Manual is as follows:

1. It serves as a record of compliance with the Final Rule by promoting safety and mobility within work zones having TDOT oversight.
2. It defines the process by which major aspects of applicable work zones shall be established.
3. It serves to promote coordination between all organizations involved in work zone development, both interagency divisions and parties external to TDOT.
4. It provides guidance for the required completion of the work zone process by providing detailed instruction for completion of Traffic Management Plans.

Transportation Management Plans (TMP's) will be used to plan transportation management strategies to meet both TDOT's goals and the requirements of the Final Rule. The impacts that a work zone are expected to have on a roadway or a community vary from project to project, so no two TMP's will be exactly the same. The level of planning required for an individual TMP will depend on the project's anticipated impacts. The first step in developing a TMP for a work zone is to determine the appropriate level of TMP to be utilized. Projects can be divided into three separate groups:

- **Significant TMP Projects** require a higher level of work zone impact mitigation and require consideration of various TMP strategies to help mitigate the impacts of a significant project.

- **Intermediate TMP Projects** require additional planning, coordination, etc. beyond a basic Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) plan, but not to the level of a Significant TMP.
- **Basic TMP Projects** require no additional TMP Strategies beyond a typical TTC plan.

## **TDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility Manual**

This Manual provides guidance in determining the level of work zone planning required for individual projects. The Manual is organized in the following manner:

Part 1: Purpose and Commitment - This section defines TDOT's commitment to comprehensive work zone development. Broad level topics such as procedural goals and objectives and program administration are addressed.

Part 2: TDOT Procedures and Initiatives - This section describes the organizational procedures necessary to fulfill the Final Rule requirements. It outlines systematic procedures to manage, implement and assess the Work Zone Safety and Mobility initiatives. It describes, in detail, the process to be followed and roles for each TDOT Division.

Part 3: Project Significance Assessment - This section details the process of developing a work zone strategy for specific projects. The strategies implemented for a specific project vary depending on the significance of the project. A project that is deemed "significant" requires a high level of work zone impact mitigation including Temporary Traffic Control Strategies, Transportation Operations Strategies and Public Information Strategies. Part 3 reviews the procedures to be used in determining the significance of a project.

Part 4: Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Development - Part 4 describes the procedures required by TDOT's Work Zone Safety and Mobility Process for the development of a TMP for a project. The TMP is the tool used to itemize and describe mitigation strategies for every work zone having TDOT oversight. A TMP Workbook has been developed to serve as the decision-making platform for TMP's and will serve as the documentation of its development.

Appendix - The Appendix contains TMP forms and other referenced documentation.