WORK AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL HANDBOOK

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1990
SEVENTH EDITION

...ED AND ENDORSED BY

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Work Area Traffic Control Handbook "WATCH"

PREFACE TO 1990 SEVENTH EDITION

This handbook is intended to serve as a standard for control of traffic in work areas in public streets by cities, counties and other agencies responsible for such work.

This edition is in substantial conformance with State and Federal standards and is endorsed by APWA, ITE and CTE.

Nothing contained in this handbook is intended to establish or create a legal standard of conduct or duty toward the public. The criteria for the position, location, manner of installation and the use of such signs, lights and devices are furnished solely for the purpose of information and guidance.

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1 — INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to set forth basic principles and to recommend standards, to be observed by all those who perform work in a public street, which provide safe and effective work areas; and to warn, control, protect and expedite vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

2 — GENERAL INFORMATION

Proper traffic control techniques shall be effectively utilized to:

1. Reduce accidents.
2. Minimize injury to workers and the public.
3. Reduce damage to private and public property, including damage to the construction project and construction equipment.
4. Minimize the possibility of claims and litigation arising from construction zone accidents.
5. Reduce confusion to motorists.
6. Expedite traffic flow.
7. Improve public relations.

In order to assure driver understanding of traffic devices in work areas it is necessary to standardize the type and placement of signs, barricades and delineators. Nationwide standards are set forth in general terms in the *Traffic Control Devices Handbook* published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. State standards are established by departments of transportation and highways and contained in manuals published by such states.

3 — AUTHORITY

No work may be performed in any public right-of-way without permission from the authorizing agency. Traffic control shall be in accordance with the provisions of the latest edition of this manual or the agency's permit for the work.

4 — RESPONSIBILITY

All contractors, permittees or agencies doing work in public streets or public rights-of-way shall:

1. Obtain all necessary permits.
2. Provide timely notification to all affected agencies, includ-