
Annexure 8.12: Traffic Control and Safety during Construction

A. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The traffic on roads has increased manifold and most of the roads are expected to operate at their maximum capacity in the near future. Under the circumstances, the existing methods of maintenance and construction which compromise safety and cause delay are no longer acceptable and a change in work procedures and method has become inevitable. Under the existing method of maintenance and reconstruction, the traffic is invariably diverted over unprepared shoulders or forced to use part of the existing roads under maintenance. This results in the increase in vehicle operating cost and reduction in safety besides causing environmental pollution. Therefore, the existing work procedure and contract conditions are required to be changed to provide for proper management of traffic during the execution of work. The traffic management strategies to be used at traffic control zones must include the following fundamental principles:

- (i) Make traffic safety an integral and high priority element of every project
- (ii) Avoid inhibiting traffic as much as possible
- (iii) Guide drivers in a clear and positive way
- (iv) Perform routine inspection of traffic control elements and traffic operations
- (v) Give care and attention to roadside safety

B. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

The primary traffic control devices used in work zones are signs, delineators, barricades, cones, pylons, pavement markings and flashing lights. The following general rules should apply to all traffic control devices within the traffic control zone.

- (i) **Comprehension:** All traffic control devices should be capable of being easily understood. A particular device must convey one and only one meaning. Good and clean condition of the device aids comprehension.
- (ii) **Visibility and Stability:** Devices should be within the cone of vision of the driver and be placed such that it allows adequate time at the average approach speed or the desired speed through the traffic control zone. All traffic control devices should be clearly visible by day and night, at these speeds and under the usually prevailing climatic conditions. They should be kept properly aligned and legible at all times. Foliage or any other obstruction should not be allowed to impede the view of these devices, nor should wind, road dirt or the like be allowed to obscure their face. The traffic control devices must be able to resist the local wind pressure, rain and the vibrations etc. of the passing traffic but these should not act as rigid obstacles in the event of a collision;
- (iii) **Installation and Removal:** All traffic control devices should be installed for the minimum required time. Traffic control devices by their nature are a hindrance to the normal traffic flow and should be removed immediately after the need, being met by these is fulfilled. Existing devices like signs or lane markings should be removed during the temporary works and reinstated thereafter or covered while the temporary devices are in operation. The installation and removal of the temporary traffic control devices and the reinstatement of the pre-existing or new (where the scheme improves the road) traffic control devices must, therefore, be meticulously supervised to ensure the minimum period when there are no signs or markings

C. SIGNS

The road construction and maintenance signs fall into the same three major categories as do other traffic signs, that is Regulatory Signs, Warning Signs and Direction (or Guidance) Signs. The IRC: 67 (Code of Practice for Road Signs) provides a list of traffic signs. Where possible, the size, colours and placement of sign shall conform to IRC: 67. The main signs that would be utilized are shown below. This also covers signs that are not included in IRC: 67 but are considered desirable to aid drivers' comprehension of the route through the road works. Each sign should be well located so that its message is seen and is clear, which will be assisted if the surroundings are devoid of "unnecessary" signs and other clutter. These signs should be of retroreflective sheets of high intensity grade or engineering grade depending upon the importance of the road as directed by the Engineer.