

Get "Quick" help evaluating temporary traffic control scenarios

AN IMPORTANT factor when evaluating alternative traffic control plans is how they will affect motorists. QuickZone 1.0, a new software developed by the FHWA, can help you accurately estimate delay times, and the costs of those delays, for various scenarios in urban and inter-urban areas.

Want to try it out? You can download a free, self-extracting file (QuickZone 0.99) from various locations on the FHWA's website. You need Microsoft Excel 97 or higher running on a Windows-based PC. You'll need to enter data such as location, detour routes, anticipated traffic volumes, and construction dates and times.

Download Quickzone 0.99 and learn about other Strategic Work Zone Analysis Tools (SWAT) from the FHWA's Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center site:
www.tfsrc.gov/its/quickzon.htm.

You can also download the free software and learn more about both SWAT and FHWA's Work Zone Mobility and Safety Program at the FHWA Operations Work Zone site:
www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workzone.htm.

Use "Road (Street) Closed" signs correctly

WHEN DEVELOPING traffic control plans for work sites involving road closures, give proper notice to motorists and avoid possible litigation by using the correct signage. Incorrect use of "Road (Street) Closed" signs encourages noncompliance by motorists and does not protect you from liability.

Sections 2B.42 and 6F.08 of the MUTCD contain guidelines for the proper use of signs involving road closures:

- Install "Road (Street) Closed" (R11-2) signs where roads have been closed to all traffic (except authorized vehicles).
- Use "Road Closed – Local Traffic Only" (R11-3) and "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" (R11-4) signs
 - where through traffic is not permitted or
 - in advance of a closure where the highway is open for local traffic up to the point of closure.

Section 2B.42 of the MUTCD includes this standard for "Road Closed" signage:

The Road Closed (R11-2, R11-3, and R11-4) signs shall be designed as horizontal rectangles. **These signs shall be preceded by the applicable Advance Road Closed warning sign with the secondary legend AHEAD and, if applicable, an Advance Detour warning sign (see Section 6F.19) [emphasis added].**

Section 6F.08 the MUTCD includes this standard:

The Road (Street) Closed sign shall **not** be used where road user flow is maintained or where the actual closure is some distance beyond the sign [emphasis added].

The Iowa DOT Standard Road Plans RS-26A and RS-26B, Situation 1, contain an illustration of the proper use of regulatory signs for road closures.

For more information

Consult the millennium edition of the MUTCD, available online, www.mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov. Or contact Tom McDonald, Iowa's Safety Circuit Rider, 515-294-6384, tmcdonal@iastate.edu. •

LTAP Advisory Board

The people listed below help direct the policies and activities of Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Contact any of the advisory committee members to comment, make suggestions, or ask questions about LTAP.

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