Operating Statement

Research and experience have demonstrated that increasing the amount of traffic control does not necessarily increase drivers’ compliance with those controls. Rather, drivers tend to comply most often (and thereby increase traffic safety) with traffic control efforts that are consistent and reasonable.

Transportation agencies are advised, therefore, to adopt a policy that establishes a systematic, systemwide approach to traffic control, based on the advice of qualified engineers. (Documenting the agency’s compliance with such a policy is also valuable, particularly with legal liability issues.)

A suggested operating policy for transportation agencies would state: “Decisions regarding establishment of traffic control in specific situations will be based on the precepts of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and engineering studies considering factors such as traffic speed, volumes, sight restrictions, and crash history.”

The source for this suggested operating policy is the video Traffic Control—What Works available from the Minnesota Local Road Research Board and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.