



SOME IMPORTANT TRAFFIC PLAN ITEMS

Traffic control plans need not be prepared or stamped by a professional engineer, nor must they be drawn to scale or on full-size plan sheets. HOWEVER, they must be prepared based on a review of actual field conditions, they must demonstrate that the preparer actually understands the stuff in “the book” (currently the Texas MUTCD) and the stuff that’s not in the book because it comes with experience, and they must communicate clearly to the crew that will be doing the setup. If you have any doubts about your qualifications in this field, be a responsible professional and delegate this work to a specialist; if not, here are some important items you should include:

1. State the type of work being done.
2. Identify relevant parties such as a developer; agency, general contractor, traffic control contractor, preparer of traffic control plans, etc. include contact information, including a 24-hour number for whoever is responsible for traffic control.
3. State the expected project duration.
4. State the traffic control hours. (Be aware that work hours are different from traffic control hours – no activities of any kind that might affect traffic can occur outside the approved traffic control hours.) Traffic control shall comply with Texas MUTCD.
5. Traffic control shall comply with Texas MUTCD or referencing typical drawings contained in this manual.
6. If work will entail excavation, note on plan that DigAlert shall be notified at least two working days prior to excavating.
7. Show a north arrow
8. If plan is to scale, identify the scale.
9. Label street names and try to spell them correctly.
10. Show dimensions as appropriate. This may or may not include right of way, sidewalk, median, etc.
11. Double-check and clearly define all tapers. Most design problems relate to tapers, so this is your opportunity to demonstrate that you know your stuff.
12. Traffic control should be designed for existing prevailing speeds, which may typically be approximated by the posted speed limit.
13. Identify any conflicting signs or markings that must be covered.
14. Identify special measures for any night-time traffic control.
15. If temporary parking restrictions are necessary, state that appropriate signs shall be posted 72 hours in advance.

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16. Most arterial streets in Amarillo have Class II bike lanes. In the event that No. 2 travel lane must be closed, the cones should typically be placed 4' offset from the lane line to provide a relocated bike lane.
17. If a lane is being closed downstream of an intersection, determine if it is necessary to close or modify any upstream lanes (remember to check for dual turn lanes turning into single receiving lanes).
18. If traffic control will span a City boundary, show the boundary.
19. Include general notes as appropriate, beginning with standard notes that can be furnished by the City Traffic Engineer upon request. Here are a few, just to serve as examples:
 - Traffic control shall conform to the latest edition of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
 - All traffic control devices shall be kept in their proper positions at all times and shall be repaired, replaced, or cleaned as necessary to preserve their appearance and continuity.
 - Channelizing devices shall be either 28" cones or 39" tubular markers.
 - Channelizing devices spacing shall be ___ feet on tapers, ___ feet on tangents, and ___ feet on radii.
 - All open excavation or construction work shall be a minimum of 5 feet from any operating traffic lanes where possible.
20. Traffic control plans shall be submitted to the Traffic Engineering Department for review and acceptance prior to implementation.

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