

2-1 General

Effective traffic control is vital for the safety of workers and the state's multimodal traveling public. The WSDOT traffic control guidelines provide the public with clear and consistent guidance through work zones, and reduce maintenance workers exposure to traffic.

The Secretary of Transportation has adopted the [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD) with modifications as the legal standard by [Chapter 468-95 WAC](#). **It is mandatory that traffic control measures on maintenance projects comply with the MUTCD requirements.** The MUTCD outlines basic principles and prescribes standards for the design, application, installation, and maintenance of traffic control devices. The MUTCD details requirements for color, size, shape, location and need for traffic control devices.

The WSDOT [Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines](#) M 54-44 is a subsidiary manual to the MUTCD and has Washington specific requirements that are more stringent. For further work zone information, refer to the [Traffic Manual](#) M 51-02, [Chapter 5](#).

The maintenance employee in charge at a work zone is responsible to see all standards are followed. This includes ensuring that temporary signs, warning devices and flagging personnel are placed appropriately. **Traveling public and worker safety are of primary importance. Safety takes precedence over all efforts to maintain a highway or structure.**

Consult the Regional Traffic Engineer when standard layouts are not applicable.

