

REDUCING CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE INTERFERENCE

Description

Construction and maintenance on congested freeways can be difficult to perform—the activity may create major disruptions in traffic flow. Reducing the disruption plays an important role in reducing congestion, lowering project cost and time required for construction, and decreasing the overall frustration felt by drivers and agencies.

A transportation management plan should coordinate efforts by several stakeholders, shape public expectations, and include three elements for controlling traffic operations during the projects:

- *Temporary Traffic Control Plan* (guiding traffic through the work zone using techniques such as the zipper merge).
- *Transportation Operations Plan* (route, departure time, and modal strategies to mitigate project-induced congestion in the corridor or region).
- *Public Information Plan* (communicating to the public before and during the project).



AASHTO

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Cost: | ●●○○○ |
| Time: | Short |
| Impact: | Spot/Corridor |
| Who: | State/City |
| Hurdles: | Coordination |

A new technique for reducing congestion at construction sites is the zipper (also late or joint) merge where drivers are asked to take turns merging into one lane at a merge point. This technique has been shown to shorten queue lengths by up to 35 percent.

Target Market

- Congested work zone areas on important (significant) projects
- Transportation management plans should be developed for any construction location where the work may interfere with traffic flow

How Will This Help?

- Mitigate congestion and reduce delay caused by construction or maintenance.
- Increase safety in work zones for construction workers and travelers.
- Expedite construction and maintenance on roadways.

Success Stories

- CALTRANS developed an extensive TMP for the Bay Bridge full closure during Labor Day weekend 2007.
- A number of guidance documents regarding work zone transportation management plan development are available from the FHWA website.

Implementation Issues

No major implementation issues are associated with developing a traffic management plan. Planners must communicate with and include all stakeholders early in the development process to ensure the plan covers all elements of the project, including utility management, safety, incident management, emergency services, law enforcement, and public awareness.