

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Work Zones		NUMBER: TE-342
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Lane Encroachment and Center Lane Closure Policy for Work Zones on Limited Access Highways		DATE: April 24, 2006
		SUPERSEDES:
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE: <i>R. J. Khoury</i>	

The following policy regarding acceptable lane encroachments and lane closures for limited access highways is effective immediately. This policy is meant to consider the critical operational flow of traffic through work zones and the related safety aspects of performing work operations.

- 1. Lane encroachment for work activity shall not result in a travel lane width of less than 11 feet, except as follows:**
 - a. **Operations less than three consecutive day/night periods at the same location** - Lane encroachment resulting in a travel lane width of at least 10 feet may be used for intermediate-term stationary operations such as milling/paving operations. The restriction should be limited to the areas where the work activities are occurring by moving the channelizing devices out as the work progresses.
 - b. **Operations longer than three consecutive day/night periods at the same location** – For long-term stationary operations such as construction projects, a travel lane width no less than 10 feet may be allowed only when an assessment is made and documented by the District Traffic Engineer. This assessment must demonstrate that if not allowed, traffic delays and back-ups will create unacceptable safety factors and/or road network failure. Such assessment shall consider as a minimum, traffic volumes, vehicle mix, speed, capacity, and type of operation.

- 2. When any center lane must be closed for work activity, an additional adjoining lane(s) on one side shall be closed also, such that through traffic is not split.** The center lane closure may encroach on the remaining lanes in accordance with the provisions of Item 1.

- 3. A center lane shall not be closed when work is performed in an adjacent lane unless the provisions of Item 1 can not be met.**

cc: Division Administrators
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