

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
INSTRUCTIONAL & INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Portable Temporary Rumble Strips (PTRS)	NUMBER: IIM-TE-386.2
	SUPERSEDES: June 28, 2018
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Revised Guidelines for the use of Portable Temporary Rumble Strips (PTRS)	DATE: May 17, 2021
	SUNSET DATE:
APPROVAL: <div style="text-align: center;">/original signed by/ Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Richmond, VA 05/17/2021</div>	

Changes are shaded

CURRENT REVISION

This memorandum was revised changing the use of Portable Temporary Rumble Strips (PTRS) from a “should” to a “shall” condition for flagging operations on two-lane roadways, greater than three hours but less than three consecutive days in duration including land use permits operations.

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PURPOSE AND NEED

Distracted and drowsy driving crashes have been on the rise recently both within Virginia and nationally. To increase motorists attention when entering flagging operations on two-lane roadways the Department is requiring the use of portable temporary rumble strips (PTRS).

The advantages of using PTRS include:

It creates an audible noise and vibration to approaching motorists,

Raises motorists attentiveness to flagging operations,

Provides an audible warning to flaggers, increasing their awareness of approaching vehicles and;
Helps reduce rear end collisions and roadway departures

This Memorandum provides additional guidance beyond what is shown in the [2011 Virginia Work Area Protection manual](#) (WAPM) for flagging operations on two-lane roadways.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date for this Memorandum is as follows:

- State forces – effective immediately for state forces in possession of PTRS when performing a lane closure on two-lane roadways using flaggers, with complete implementation by all state forces with the purchase of additional PTRS units by January 1, 2019.
- Design-Bid-Build Contracts and Design-Build/PPTA Projects – This Memorandum shall be effective for projects advertised after January 1, 2019.
- State and Federally Funded projects Administered by VDOT – This memorandum shall be effective for projects advertised after July 1, 2019.
- ASD Contracts – existing ASD Contracts (including hired equipment and other forms of ASD contracts) should be modified as soon as possible (but no later than January 1, 2019) to include the use of PTRS.
- Land Use Permits (including work performed by utilities) – This Memorandum shall be effective for land use permit applications approved on/after July 1, 2022. This Memorandum may also be applied to previously approved permits if mutually agreed to by VDOT and the permittee.