

Work Zone Best Practices Guidebook

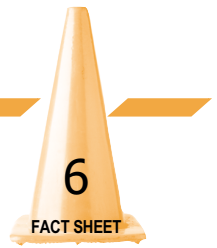
WINTER/SPRING 2001



American Association
of State Highway and
Transportation Officials

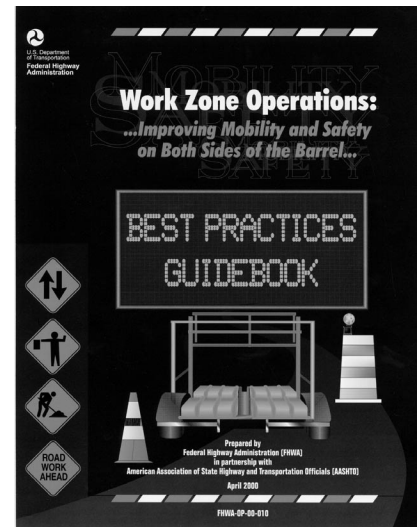


Federal Highway
Administration



In partnership with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently published a *Work Zone Operations Best Practices Guidebook*. The Guidebook promotes the sharing of effective work zone technologies and practices among practitioners across the nation. It is a reference document of "state-of-the-practice" technologies and approaches for work zone mobility and safety management, and will be updated as the state-of-the-practice evolves. FHWA hopes that the information in the Guidebook helps practitioners in making informed decisions and taking actions that improve the operational efficiency and safety of the nation's highway system.

The Guidebook contains information on 262 work zone best practices identified through a 1998 scanning tour of 26 States. The best practices cover all aspects of roadway improvement planning, design, and construction. These practices were first recorded in the 1998 FHWA report *Meeting the Customer's Needs for Mobility and Safety During Construction and Maintenance Operations*. The report organizes the practices into 11 major groupings of similar practices so that readers can find all of the practices that deal with a particular topic. The Guidebook takes this collection of work zone best practices and makes them more easily accessible by providing a series of cross references and a topical index that enables users to find best practices in several different ways.



Topics Covered in the Guidebook

Best practices are grouped into 11 major areas:

- Policies/procedures
- Prediction modeling and analysis
- Project development/design
- Enforcement
- ITS and innovation technology
- Evaluation and feedback
- Public relations/education/outreach
- Planning and programming
- Contracting and bidding
- Traveler and traffic information
- Specifications and construction materials, methods, and practices

For each major area, the Guidebook contains an assessment of the state-of-the-art for work zone practice, a brief description of how transportation agencies can achieve the state-of-the-art, a list of the best practices organized into more specific subcategories, and a description for each practice. The descriptions include:

- Reference number for the best practice (used in the cross-references section)
- Location where the best practice was observed
- Title for the best practice (used in the *Meeting the Customer's Needs* report)
- Description of the practice/approach/technology

OPTIMIZING PERFORMANCE

MOBILITY & SAFETY

MAKING WORK ZONES WORK BETTER



U.S. Department
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- Reason(s) for adopting the best practice
- Biggest benefit(s) being realized from the best practice
- Location and type(s) of projects where the best practice is most applicable/effective
- Point(s) of contact

The Guidebook contains a topical index with practices organized into 41 topics and subtopics and a series of cross-references. The cross-references enable practitioners to identify best practices based on where they were observed, project life cycle stage, type of organization, geographic or demographic characteristics, nature of activity, traffic conditions, and type of roadway.

“Best” Practices

The “best” practices listed in the Guidebook are descriptive, not prescriptive. That is, they describe approaches and technologies that some transportation agencies have used and found effective for achieving work zone mobility and safety. Each organization must determine which of the practices and technologies are best suited for its particular situation, considering all the factors that affect work zone operations. The Guidebook serves as a resource for State and local transportation agencies, construction contractors, transportation planners, trainers, and others with interest in work zone operations.

Receiving a Copy of the Guidebook

The Guidebook is available for download and printing from FHWA's Work Zone Web site at <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workzone.htm>. The Guidebook was also produced in print and CD-ROM formats. To obtain a copy of the CD-ROM, contact Mr. Phillip Ditzler at FHWA (Phillip.Ditzler@fhwa.dot.gov).

Guidebook Updates

This Guidebook is the first release of a “living” document that AASHTO and FHWA will work together to maintain and update. Future updates to the Guidebook will remove outdated practices and add new approaches, technologies, and practices as they become “state-of-the-practice.” YOUR INPUT IS ESSENTIAL! We ask that you support this resource by identifying and documenting practices proven by your highway agency to improve mobility and safety in work zones. There is a best practices submission form in the Guidebook that can be mailed or faxed to FHWA. Users can also provide feedback on practices already in the Guidebook and on its overall usefulness through a comment form in the Guidebook. FHWA also encourages practitioners to complete and submit the registration form in the Guidebook so they can receive information on Guidebook updates.

To download a copy of this fact sheet or view other Mobility and Safety fact sheets, visit our Web site at <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workzone.htm>

To learn more, contact:
Mike Crow (AASHTO contact)
 Kansas Department of Transportation
 217 Southeast 4th Street, Floor 4
 Topeka, KS 66603-3504
Phone:
 785-296-3618
E-mail:
mikec@ksdot.org

To share your Best Practices, contact:
Phillip Ditzler
 Federal Highway Administration
 400 Seventh Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20590
Phone:
 202-366-0855
E-mail:
Phillip.Ditzler@fhwa.dot.gov




U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Publication No. FHWA-OP-01-009

Work Zone Best Practices Guidebook

199. CITY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO



BEST PRACTICE/POLICY:
Paving The Way



DESCRIPTION OF THE BEST PRACTICE/POLICY:
Paving The Way is a comprehensive traffic-management program that provides public information and commuter-assistance services to Columbus area motorists. It is a cooperative partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the City of Columbus.

REASON(S) FOR ADOPTING THE BEST PRACTICE/POLICY:
To provide one source for all information pertaining to highway construction projects in the Columbus Metropolitan area and to coordinate traffic control between projects.

BIGGEST BENEFIT(S) BEING REALIZED FROM THIS BEST PRACTICE/POLICY:
Paving The Way keeps motorists informed on work zone traffic control with one point of contact for information. The organization conducts safety campaigns and monitors projects to improve traffic control.

LOCATION AND TYPE(S) OF PROJECTS THAT THIS PRACTICE/POLICY IS MOST APPLICABLE/EFFECTIVE:
All public roads

CONTACT(S):
Kim Shepherd, Coordinator, City of Columbus
Telephone: (614) 645-3970
E-Mail: CPShepherd@cmhmetro.net

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