

# Work Zone Traffic Control for Law Enforcement Personnel

Ron Whittaker

DOTD, Highway Safety

Law Enforcement Expert



Louisiana Department of  
Transportation & Development

# *Why We Developed the Updated Course*



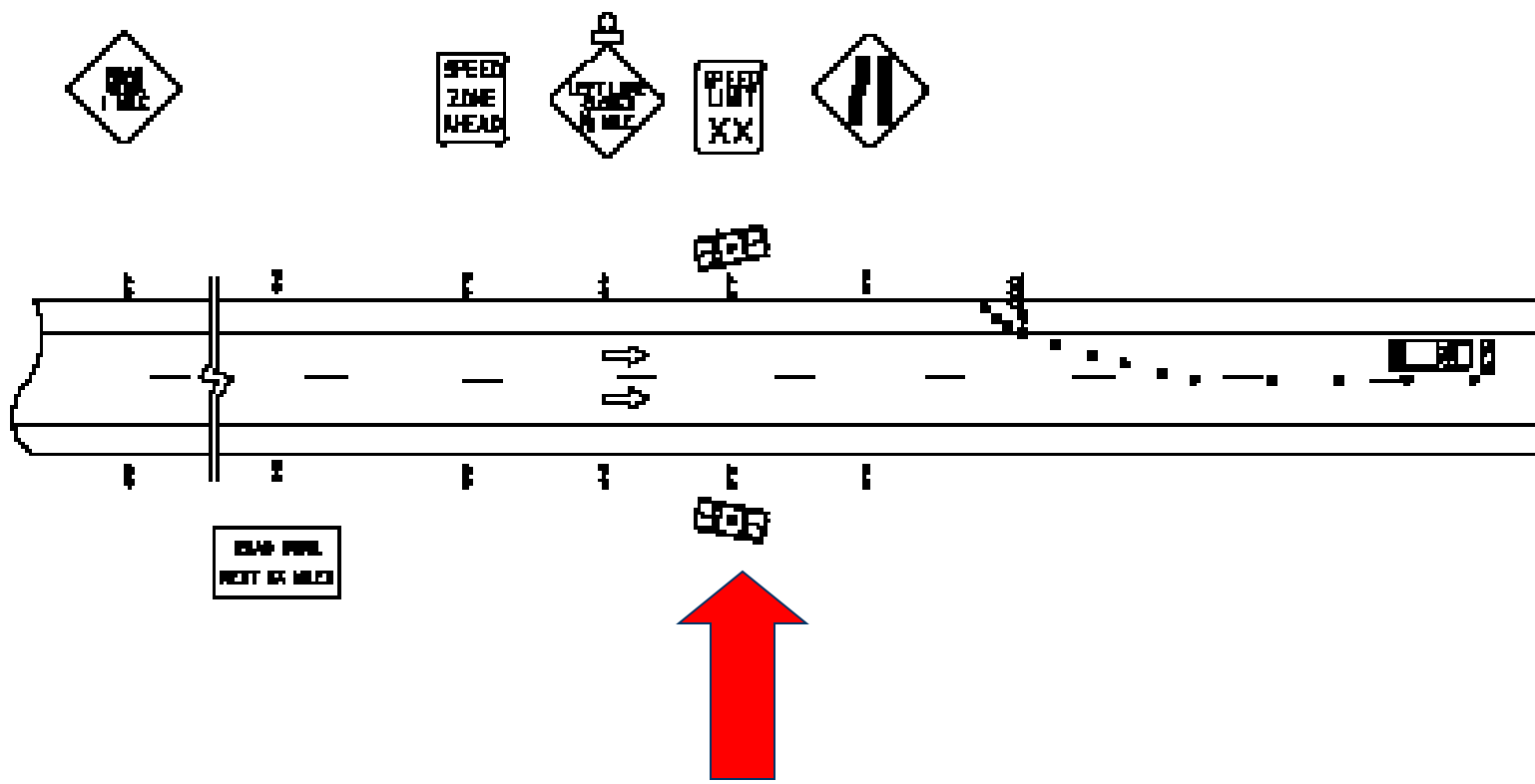
# ***Updated WZ Safety Course Emphasis Areas***

- Where the Police Unit Should Be Located and WHY
- Exactly What the Police Officers' Duties and Responsibilities Are When Working in a Work Zone

# *Key Issues*

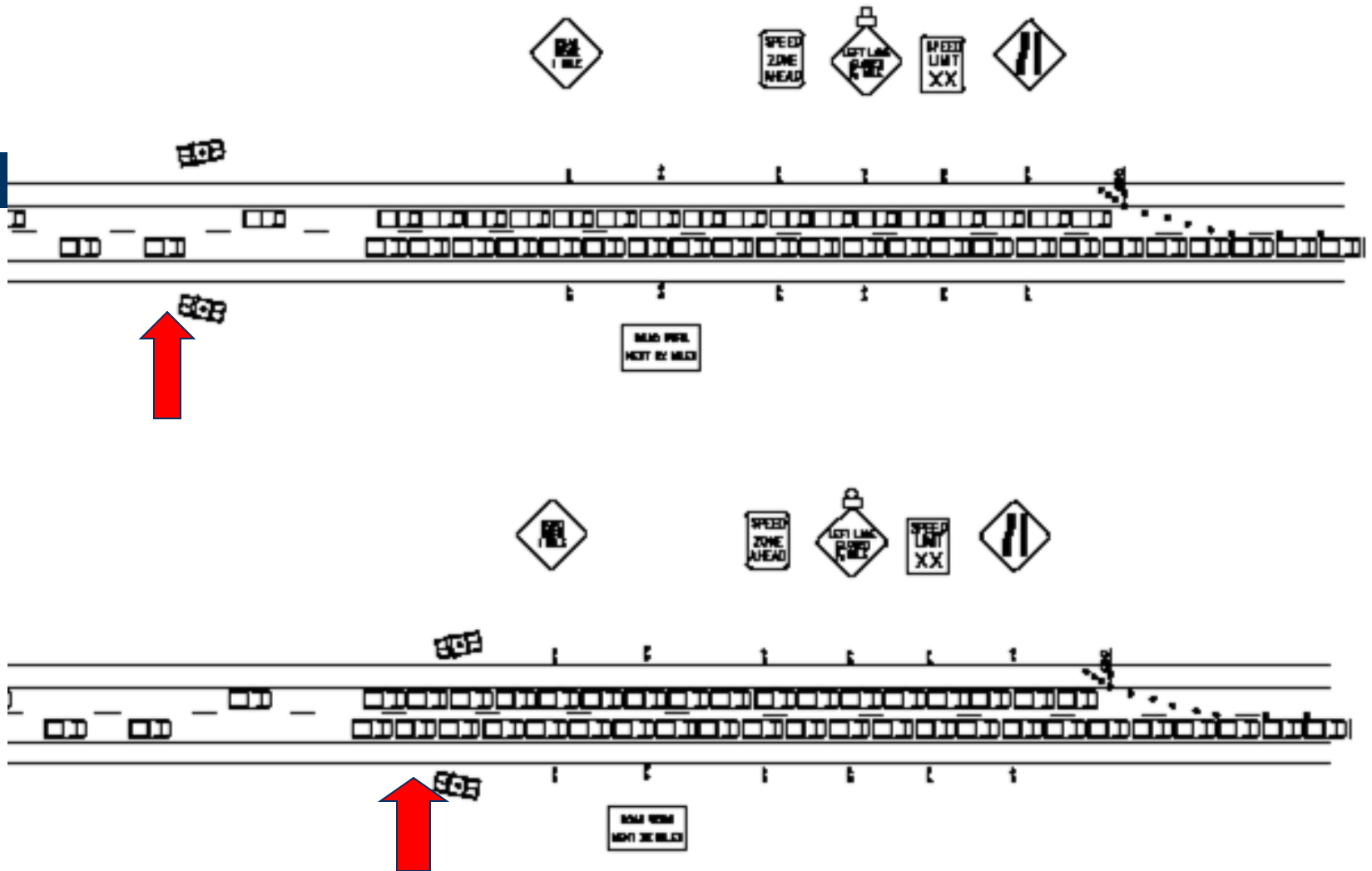
- Critical Safety Point
  - ¼ Mile Prior to the Queue
- How a Work Zone Should be set up and WHY
  - Drive through the WZ prior to detail
- Safety Issues
  - YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, as a Police Officer
  - Chain of Command to Resolve Safety Issues

# Car Location With Speed and/or Lane Reduction



The Red Arrow shows the typical location of a police officer in the Advance Warning area of the Work Zone, when there is no queue.

# Car Location With a Queue (Traffic Backup)



The Red Arrows show the typical location of a police officer when there IS a queue and traffic has backed up past the warning signs.

# *Aspects of Training*

- Risk Management Principle
  - “If it is predictable, it is preventable”
- Concentrate on Where the Problem Really Is
  - Critical Safety Point
- Consider Hiring a Police Officer/Retired Police Officer for Training

# Are WZ Crashes Underreported?

- Probably
- Louisiana Crash Report Manual
  - ...“where the first harmful event occurs within the boundaries of the work zone.”
  - “Crashes involving vehicles slowed or stopped because of the work zone ***should not*** be included unless the vehicles had actually entered the work zone when the first harmful event occurred.”



# Thank You!



Ron Whittaker

LaDOTD Highway Safety  
Section

PH# 985-969-3117

[rwhittaker@live.com](mailto:rwhittaker@live.com)

