TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANUAL

Chapter 7 – Traffic Engineering Studies
7A – No Passing Zone Study

Safety and Equipment

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Safety

The vehicles should be driven on the shoulder as much as possible when driving on the traveled way would impede normal traffic flow in high-speed sections. The vehicles should be parked on the shoulder as far from the open lane as possible when stopped. It may be necessary to park the vehicles and walk through some sections to maintain a safe condition. Traffic control is to be in compliance with Standard Road Plan RS-1.

Equipment

Equipment required for no passing zone surveys varies somewhat depending on whether the crew is using the rope or the vehicle mounted distance measuring instrument method. For the rope method a 1/8-inch rope, 1000 feet in length is needed. It can be purchased by special order from a hardware store. It should be pulled tight and measured prior to each use due to stretching, breaking, etc. For the distance measuring instrument method, handheld radios are needed for communication. They are also advantageous for the rope method. The radio frequency should be one that does not activate a repeater and should not be the same as the one being used by the local maintenance crew.

Depending on the observation system being used while the vehicles are moving, a target or flashing light may be needed for visibility of the observer to help ensure that a location warranting a no passing zone is not missed. A hand held target is needed with either method. It is mounted on a stand such as pipe, conduit or 1in. by 2in. board. The front and back of the target should be two different colors for flexibility in being seen with differing backgrounds and lighting. The bottom of the target, or a discernable line on the target, must be 3.5 feet above pavement surface.

The target must be viewed from a position 3.5 feet above pavement surface. This can be achieved through the use of a slot in another target, a riflescope mounted on a pipe, or another positive method. One such method is to use a range finder mounted at a height of 3.5 feet. By using a range finder, the separation distance can be checked as well.

Spray paint is used to mark the ends of the zones. The marks can be arrows or "L" shapes, depending on paint team preference. Color is also optional with the local crew or paint team.

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