

Safe and Effective Use of Law Enforcement Personnel in Work Zones

Module 1.3

Roles and Responsibilities of Work Zone Stakeholders



Module 1.3

Module 1 includes 3 lessons:

Lesson 1.1— Introduction

- The importance of how work zone training for LEOs enhances safety

Lesson 1.2 — Sources of Work Zone Standards, Guidelines and Procedures

- Key references and resources for LEOs

Lesson 1.3 — Roles and Responsibilities

- Roles and responsibilities of work zone stakeholders

Objectives of this Lesson

When you complete this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders working in work zones
- List the services provided by LEOs in work zones
- Discuss how LEOs facilitate safety in work zones

Responsibility for Roadways

In Maryland, the agencies responsible for roadways include:

- State Highway Administration is responsible for most interstates, US routes, and other roads on the State System.
- Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) is responsible for toll facilities (bridges and tunnels) as well as roadways associated with these facilities.
- Local agencies are responsible for non-state designated roadways within their jurisdictions.



Work zones or their traffic impacts may cross jurisdictional boundaries. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project and the Intercounty Connector are examples.

Work Zone Stakeholders



Agency responsible for building, maintaining and operating roadways. The Project Engineer (PE) is the SHA representative for the duration of the project.



Contractors responsible for performing construction activities on or near roadways.



Law Enforcement Officers assigned to support work zones.



Road users who pass through work zones or who travel on roadways impacted by work zones on other roads.

This course focuses on stakeholders who are responsible for managing or working in work zones.

Agency Responsibilities

SHA is responsible for the overall project. Specific responsibilities with respect to work zones are to:

- Approve a project Traffic Control Plan (TCP)
- Allocate LEO resources in work zones
- Inspect work zone traffic control
- Ensure adherence to TCP

Project Engineer (PE)

SHA is represented by the PE. Responsibilities of the PE include:

- Ensuring compliance with contract documents, policies and guidelines
- Verifying all work zone personnel are trained
- Recommending and implementing traffic control improvements to address field conditions pertaining to traffic flow, visibility, and worker and motorist safety
- Investigating all work zone crashes and maintaining the TCP

Contractors

Contractors are responsible for the actual construction or maintenance work, and for implementing and maintaining traffic control plans approved by SHA and local jurisdiction.

Services provided by the contractor include:

TRAFFIC MANAGER

TRAFFIC CONTROL
TECHNICIAN



Traffic Manager (TM)

- Implements TCP
- Maintains work zone documentation
- Recommends traffic control improvements to the project engineer
- Ensures traffic control is correct each day
- Serves as the contractor's Point of Contact (POC)
- May brief LEOs assigned to work zones

Traffic Control Technician

- Report to Project Engineer
- Help implement and maintain the TCP
- Are a good source of technical information for LEOs on TCP issues

LEO Activities and Priorities



Work zone services are provided by off-duty officers in full uniform with a marked law enforcement vehicle and all of the standard equipment.

LEOs provide the following services in work zones:

- Presence/Speed Management
- Enforcement
- Traffic Control



Presence



Enforcement



Control

Presence

The presence of a law enforcement vehicle contributes to speed reduction in work zones.

The vehicle captures the attention of passing motorists, increasing their awareness of work zone activities.



The law enforcement vehicle is positioned within the work zone to be **VISIBLE** and to enhance safety.

Enforcement

Active enforcement by LEOs

- Increases motorists' compliance with work zone regulations
- Discourages aggressive or careless driving
- Is effective in reducing speeds through work zones

It is important to point out that:



- Presence and “active” enforcement are separate activities

Presence relies on the “visibility” of law enforcement vehicles to raise motorist awareness, reduce motorist speeds, and encourage compliance with other traffic regulations.

Traffic Control



LEOs may provide traffic control to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of traffic through work zones in detour/diversion situations.

LEO Roles in Work Zones

Roles, relationships and responsibilities vary in work zones.

- ✓ LEOs are formally under the command of their barracks commander, are paid by the highway agency while on work zone assignment, and are expected to cooperate with and support other work zone stakeholders.
- ✓ LEOs may be asked to perform a number of different activities as part of work zone duties.
- ✓ LEOs may be called away from work zone assignments to higher priority law enforcement functions.

Work Zone Traffic Control Plans

The TCP specifies how traffic will be controlled during the project, including the use and placement of LEOs.

The TCP is:

- Implemented and maintained by the contractor
- Approved and enforced by the highway agency

If possible, LEOs should familiarize themselves with the TCPs. Although they are not responsible for maintaining and/or enforcing the TCP, LEOs can be valuable in identifying potential issues.



Safety is a Collective Responsibility Among Stakeholders

- LEOs should know the responsibilities of project stakeholders
- LEOs should not assume that issues have been identified by other stakeholders
- LEOs should direct concerns to the designated point of contact
- LEOs should be alert, for constantly changing circumstances in work zones
- LEOs should build working relationships with other stakeholders

True/False

Question 1

LEOs are paid by contractors while performing services in work zones.



A. True

B. False

Multiple Choice

Question 2

LEOs are responsible for:

- A. Inspecting compliance with the TCP
- B. Enforcing TCP elements
- C. Implementing the TCP
- D. None of the above

True/False

Question 3

LEOs may perform enforcement and presence duties at the same time.

A.True

B.False

True/False

Question 4

Work zone traffic control plans do not address issues related to impacts across jurisdictional boundaries.

A.True

B.False

Answer Key

1. B

2. D

3. B

4. B

Contact Information

Clarence Haskett

Maryland State Highway Administration

Office of Traffic and Safety

410-787-5876

chaskett@sha.state.md.us

