

Section 6F.81 Temporary Traffic Barriers

Support:

Temporary traffic barriers are devices designed to help prevent penetration by vehicles while minimizing injuries to vehicle occupants, and are designed to protect workers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The four primary functions of temporary traffic barriers are:

- A. To keep vehicular traffic from entering work areas, such as excavations or material storage sites;
- B. To separate workers, bicyclists, and pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic;
- C. To separate opposing directions of vehicular traffic; and
- D. To separate vehicular traffic, bicyclists, and pedestrians from the work area such as false work for bridges and other exposed objects.

Option:

Temporary traffic barriers, including shifting portable or movable barrier installations to accommodate varying directional vehicular traffic demands, may be used to separate two-way vehicular traffic.

Guidance:

Because the protective requirements of a TTC situation have priority in determining the need for temporary traffic barriers, their use should be based on an engineering study. When serving the additional function of channelizing vehicular traffic (see Section 6F.65), temporary traffic barriers should be a light color for increased visibility.

Standard:

Temporary traffic barriers shall be supplemented with standard delineation, pavement markings, or channelizing devices for improved daytime and nighttime visibility if they are used to channelize vehicular traffic. The delineation color shall match the applicable pavement marking color. In order to mitigate the effect of striking the end of a temporary traffic barrier, the end shall be installed in accordance with AASHTO's "Roadside Design Guide" (see Section 1A.11) by flaring until the end is outside the acceptable clear zone or by providing crashworthy end treatments.

Option:

Warning lights or steady-burn electric lamps may be mounted on temporary traffic barrier installations.

Support:

A movable barrier is a linear system of connected barrier segments that can rapidly be shifted laterally by using a specially designed transfer vehicle. The transfer is accomplished in a manner that does not interfere with vehicular traffic in adjacent lanes. Applications of movable barriers include the following:

- A. Closing an additional lane during work periods while maintaining the advantage of having the travel way separated from the work space by a barrier; 2003 Edition Page 6F-43 Sect. 6F.81 to 6F.83
- B. Closing an additional lane during off-peak periods to provide extra space for work activities without adversely impacting vehicular traffic flow; and
- C. Creating a temporary reversible lane, thus providing unbalanced capacity favoring the major direction of vehicular traffic flow.

More specific information on the use of temporary traffic barriers is contained in Chapters 8 and 9 of AASHTO's "Roadside Design Guide" (see Section 1A.11).