

Operating Statement

Research and experience have demonstrated that increasing the *amount* of traffic control does not necessarily increase drivers' compliance with those controls. Rather, drivers tend to comply most often (and thereby increase traffic safety) with traffic control efforts that are *consistent* and *reasonable*.

Transportation agencies are advised, therefore, to adopt a policy that establishes a systematic, systemwide approach to traffic control, based on the advice of qualified engineers. (Documenting the agency's compliance with such a policy is also valuable, particularly with legal liability issues.)

A suggested operating policy for transportation agencies would state: "Decisions regarding establishment of traffic control in specific situations will be based on the precepts of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and engineering studies considering factors such as traffic speed, volumes, sight restrictions, and crash history."

The source for this suggested operating policy is the video *Traffic Control—What Works* available from the Minnesota Local Road Research Board and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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