Traffic Engineering 101 - The Basics

Understanding the basic principles and how these drive the decisions regarding traffic management in Louisiana







Traffic Engineering 101

• Purpose:

- To provide an overview of engineering principles; guidelines
 & laws which govern traffic management in Louisiana
- Discuss how DOTD's decisions impact local communities
- Facilitate feedback & questions from local agencies on state and local traffic engineering issues



Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

- Federal policy
- All states must adopt
- Set minimums for traffic control devices such as
 - Signs
 - Pavement marking
 - And signals





Engineering Directives and Standard Manual (EDSM)

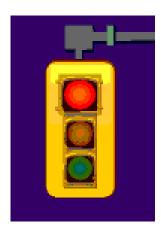
- DOTD policy
- Signed by Chief Engineer
- Provides additional requirements



Basic Principle of Traffic Engineering

"Everything is designed to meet Driver Expectancy"







TR Engineering 101

- Module:
 - 1. Introduction & Overview (3/22/10)
 - 2. Speed Management Overview (4/26/10)
 - 3. School Zones (4/26/10)
 - 4. Intersection Traffic Control (5/24/10)
 - 5. Traffic Signal (5/24/10)
 - 6. Roundabouts (5/24/10)
 - 7. Sign Selection & Installation (6/28/10)
 - 8. Work Zones (6/28/10)
 - 9. Access Management (7/26/10)



Intersection Traffic Control & Management

- Control options
 - Stop control
 - Traffic signals
 - Roundabouts

• Evaluation, selection and maintenance of each



Suggestions & Feedback

- Specific questions you have regarding the major topics:
 - DOTD's traffic engineering staff & general program
 - Speed management decisions
 - Intersections
 - Traffic signals
 - Roundabouts
 - Signs
 - Access management



More Suggestions?

- Other traffic issues or questions?
- Contact Jody Colvin at Jody.Colvin@la.gov
- or Marie B. Walsh at <u>mbwalsh@ltrc.lsu.edu</u>



All Way Stop

Intersections





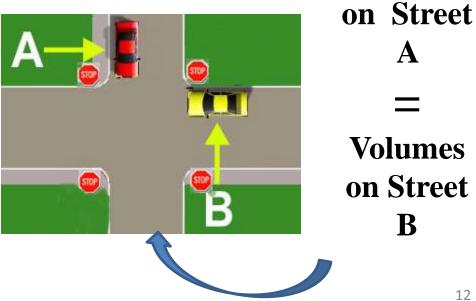
MUTCD Section 2B.07

Multiway stop control can be useful as a safety measure at intersections if certain traffic conditions exist.



MUTCD Section 2B.07

Multiway stop control is used where the volume of traffic on the intersecting roads is approximately equal. Volumes





MUTCD Section 2B.07

The decision to install multiway stop control should be based on an engineering study.



Engineering Study

- Count data
- Delay study
- Crash investigation
- Site investigation



Criteria to Install: Crashes

5 or more reported crashes in a 12 month period which include right- and left-turn collisions as well as right-angle collisions.



Criteria to Install: Volumes

In the same 8 hour period:

- Total of both major street approaches averages at least 300 vehicles per hour
- Total of both minor street approaches averages at least 200 units per hour
- An average delay to minor-street vehicular traffic of at least 30 seconds per vehicle during the highest hour



Criteria to Install: Optional

• The need to control left-turn conflicts;

- The need to control vehicle/pedestrian conflicts
- Sight Distance Issues



Installation



Size

Min. 24" X 24"

Oversize 48" X 48"

Location

- Right side of Road
- Close to the Intersection as practical
- See MUTCD 2003 Page 2A-10



Local Road Safety Program: Intersection Program

- Nominate Intersections
- Low Cost safety Improvement Packages
- Program website:
 <u>https://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/lrsp.html</u>
- Contact Marie Walsh 225 767-9184



Questions?

Contact: Jody Colvin (225) 242-4635 Jody.Colvin@la.gov

Roundabouts

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

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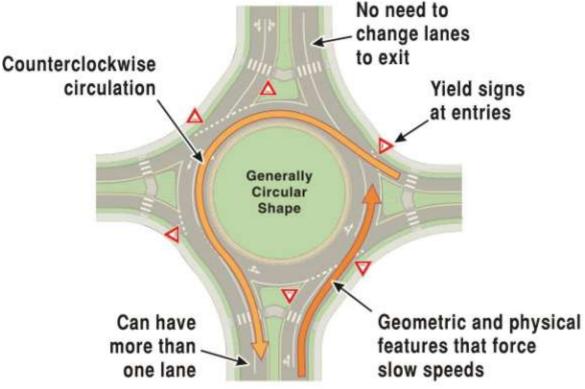
BARRAL TO PA BARR Safe Roads for a Safer Future

TO TRAFF

Adapted from photo by Lee Rodegerdts (used with permission)

Key Roundabout Characteristics

• Circular shape, yield control on entry, and geometric features that create a low-speed environment



Presentation Outline

- Characteristics of Roundabouts
- Louisiana Roundabouts
- Benefits



Key Roundabout Characteristics

- Yield at entry
- No need to change lanes to exit
- Inscribed circle diameter much smaller than old traffic circles (110 ~ 150 ft)
- Operating speeds between 18~23 mph
- Channelized approaches (Splitter islands)
- Counterclockwise circulation
- Approximate capacities
 - Single lane ~ 25,000 veh/day
 - Double lane ~ 45,000 veh/day

Roundabout Category Comparison

Single-Lane Roundabout



Roundabout Category Comparison

Multilane-Roundabout





"Non-Conforming Traffic Circle"

Alexandria, LA



Presentation Outline

- Characteristics of Roundabouts
- Louisiana Deployment Status
- Benefits of Roundabouts

Louisiana Roundabouts Installed

- LA 59 @ LA 36 Abita Springs
- LA 1067 @ Airport Road Hammond
- LA 93 @ Ridge Road Lafayette
- LA 92 @ Chemin Metairie Parkway Lafayette metro (Youngsville)
- LA 89 @ Chemin Metairie Parkway Lafayette metro (Youngsville)

Louisiana Roundabouts Under Construction

- LA 1091 @ Brownswitch Road Slidell
- US 11 @ Cleo Slidell
- LA 1067 @ Airport Road Hammond

Louisiana Roundabouts Under Consideration

- Lafayette urban area Over 120 intersections identified
- Baton Rouge urban area US 190 @ Juban and Eden Church Rd
 - US 190 @ Juban
 - US 190 @ Eden Church Rd
- North Shore
 - US 51 Bus @ I-12
 - LA 1077 @ LA 1085



LA 93 (Rue De Belier) @ LA 342 (Ridge Rd)





LA 92 @ Chemin Metairie Parkway



LA 59 @ LA 36



Presentation Outline

- Characteristics of Roundabouts
- Louisiana Deployment Status
- Benefits of Roundabouts

Benefits of Roundabouts

- Traffic Safety
 - Reduce total crashes by 35% and injury crashes by 76%
 - Reduce fatalities over 90%
- Pedestrian Safety
 - Reduced vehicle speeds, focus on one traffic stream
 - May cause issues for visually impaired pedestrians
- Traffic Calming
 - Reduce vehicle speeds using geometric design

Benefits of Roundabouts (Continued)

- Operational Performance
 - Lower overall delay than other controlled intersections
 - Specific users do not receive priority
- Ongoing Operations and Maintenance
 - Lower operating and maintenance costs than a traffic signal
 - Lower life cycle cost
- Aesthetics
- Approach Roadway Width
 - May not require lengthy turn lanes

Benefits of Roundabouts (Continued)

"Roundabouts First" policies

- New York
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Maryland



• ...and growing number of municipalities



- Roundabouts are substantially different from the older "traffic circles" or "rotary" intersections
- Roundabouts provide superior safety and operational benefits compared to other types of intersections
- Louisiana is leaning forward in the deployment of roundabouts



- Federal Highway Administration. *Technical Summary on Roundabouts*. 2010.
- Federal Highway Administration. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*. June 2000.
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program. Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, 2nd Edition. 2010.
- Federal Highway Administration. *Technical Summary on Mini-Roundabouts*. 2010.
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program. Roundabouts in the United States. 2007.
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Crash Reductions Following Installation of Roundabouts in the United States. March 2000.
- Maryland Department of Transportation. Maryland's Roundabouts: Accident Experience and Economic Evaluation. March 2007.

References (Continued)

- Transportation Research Board. Crossing Solutions at Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities. 2010.
- Transportation Research Board. *Highway Capacity Manual*. 2010.
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. 2004.
- Kansas Department of Transportation. Kansas Roundabout Guide: A Supplement to FHWA's Roundabouts: An Informational Guide. October 2003.
- Federal Highway Administration. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. January 2009.
- Illuminating Engineering Society. *Design Guide for Roundabout Lighting*. February 2008.

For More Information

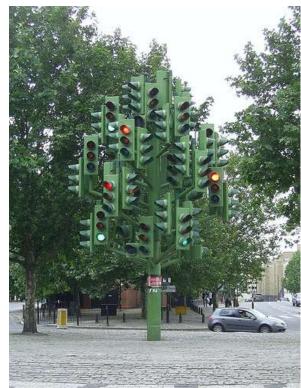
- LTAP/LMA Roundabout webinar on August 23, 2010. 2:00 PM
- DOTD Roundabout EDSMs:
 - "Roundabout Study and Approval" (VI.1.1.5)
 - "Roundabout Design" (VI.1.1.6)
- Visit FHWA's intersection safety web site for more information on Roundabouts:

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection



Traffic Signal

Intersections





MUTCD Part 4 Highway Traffic Signals

- Chapter 4A General
- Chapter 4B Signals General
- Chapter 4C
 Signals Needs Studies
- Chapter 4D Features
- Chapter 4E Pedestrian Features



MUTCD Signal Installation

 An engineering study of traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics, and physical characteristics of the location shall be performed to determine whether installation of a traffic control signal is justified at a particular location.



MUTCD Signal Installation

A traffic control signal should not be installed unless an engineering study indicates that installing a traffic control signal will improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection.



MUTCD- Warrants

- Warrant 1, Eight-Hour Vehicular Volume.
- Warrant 2, Four-Hour Vehicular Volume.
- Warrant 3, Peak Hour.
- Warrant 4, Pedestrian Volume.
- Warrant 5, School Crossing.
- Warrant 6, Coordinated Signal System.
- Warrant 7, Crash Experience.
- Warrant 8, Roadway Network.



MUTCD-Warrants

The satisfaction of a traffic signal warrant or warrants shall not in itself require the installation of a traffic control signal.



MUTCD Signal Installation

A traffic control signal should not be installed unless an engineering study indicates that installing a traffic control signal will improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection.



MUTCD Signal Study Counts

- At least a 24 hour vehicle count on a Tues, Wed or Thurs for all approaches entering the intersection
- Peak hour vehicle and pedestrian counts for at least the highest hours in the A.M. and the P.M.
- Peak hour counts for any period that can be considered a secondary peak.



MUTCD Signal Study Data

- The posted or statutory speed limit or the 85th percentile speed on the uncontrolled approaches to the location
- A condition diagram showing the physical layout of the intersection
- A collision diagram showing crash experience at or near the intersection.



DOTD – EDSM VI.3.1.6 April 17, 2008

All new signals shall:

- i. Meet Warrant 1a (100%) or Warrant7 from the MUTCD, and
- ii. Be spaced at least ½ mile from an adjacent signal, and
- iii. Service a public road on at least one minor approach



DOTD – EDSM VI.3.1.6 April 17, 2008

Applies to all **new** signals on state highways.

Including signal permits, construction projects and DOTD installed.



DOTD – EDSM VI.3.1.6

Why only 2 warrants?

- Study conducted internally
- Main volume warrant
- Crash warrant

Why ½ mile spacing?

Better coordination between signals for:

- Better traffic flow
- Consistent speeds



DOTD – Signal Design Manual

Defines DOTD's process for: Signal studies Left turn phasing **Timing Analysis** Pole layouts Head placement **Controller placements** Detection types and layout Sign placements Material types ... And much more!



DOTD – Signal Design Manual

Located on the DOTD Traffic Engineering website

Currently in the process of being updated



Existing Signals



Unwarranted Signals

Removal of unwarranted signals can reduce all types of crashes by 24%



Existing Signal Upgrades

- DOTD policy memorandum signed by the Chief Engineer and the Assistant Secretary of Operations
- States no upgrades on existing signals can be performed without a traffic study
- If warrants are not met and/or there is no engineering justification for the signal then a signal removal study must be performed



MUTCD Signal Installation

A traffic control signal should not be installed unless an engineering study indicates that installing a traffic control signal will improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection.



Signal Removal Study

- The signal will be flashed for 30 days.
- The DTOE will observe the location to determine if there are any safety or operational issues.
- If no issues then the signal heads and signs will be removed.
- After 3 months the poles and cabinet will be removed.



Questions?

Contact: Jody Colvin (225) 242-4635 Jody.Colvin@la.gov



Traffic Signal Installation &

Maintenance





Traffic Signal Inventory
Each signal has an unique TSI number
Includes a layout of the intersection and signal equipment
Tracks updates and maintenance
Records Operation of signal such as:

red, yellow and green time
phasing

- o timing plans
- o emergency operations



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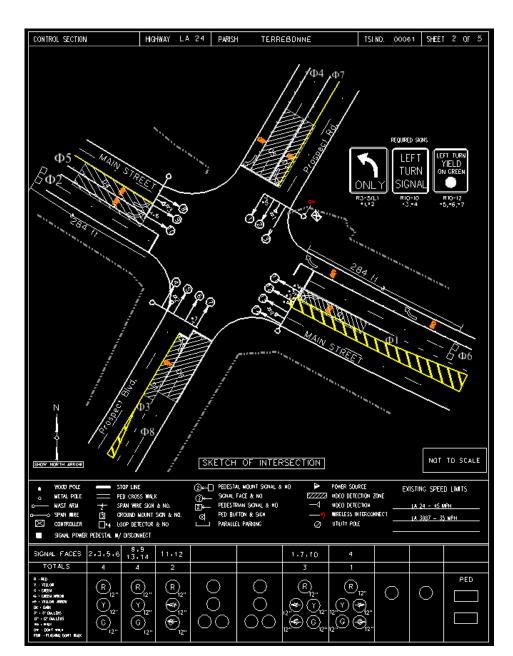
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LOOP #	- EXTEND (in se	c.) 0-	9.9								
RECALI											
MON	MEMORY ON	J									
MOF	MEMORY OF	F									
MIN	MINIMUM										
MAX	MAXIMUM										
PMN PMX		J AND MINIMUN J AND MAXIMUI									
			*1								
Note 1:											
Note 2:											
Note 3:									-		



$\mathbf{DOTD} - \mathbf{TSI}$





Maintenance

Annual Inspections for:

Equipment Signing Striping Timing



Inspection Sheets

8 NALIZED INTERSECTION INSPEC ON

	Latitude		TSI	#		Longitude _					
	FIXED TIME	FLASHING BEA	ACON 1	SIGNAL TY		LLY ACTUATED	SEMI AC	TUATED			
	# OF CROSSW 1 2 3 4 5	ALKS	# OF	PED PUSH E	UTTO	ON P	OLICE H/	ND CORD			
			1	NTERCONN	ECT						
NO	TWISTED PAD	PHONE LIN	Æ	Fiser	OTHE	R:					
	tin second		CC	OMMUNICAT	TONS						
NO	PHONE LD		OTHER	9 <u></u>	_						
	GROUND		CAB	INET MOUN POLE	г түр	E	PI	DASTAL			
				CABINET TY	PE						
i,	4 PHASE 8	PHASE	OTHE	R:							
	AUTO SENSOR O EAGLE EP20 GAMMATRONIC KENTRON 1700 XENTORN KST NAZTEC TS1 SVA 367 TRAFFIC CONTRO		CROUS EAGLE GTE CC KENTR MARAT NAZTE SVA 38:	RF ON KFA 200 HON TS2	EAG ELEC GW I KEN MAR NEM TIME	LE EF120 TTO-TECHNICS EAGLE TRON KSA 100 BELLITE M30					
	OTHER		CONFL	ICT MONITO	OR TY	PE					
				POLE LAYOU	T	1					
OXED	DIAGONAL	MASTARM	MAST	ARM & PEDAS	TAL.	PEDASTALS	V SPAN	Z SPAN			
	SINGLE	DOUBLE		POLE TYPES	8						
OF	MAST ARM	MAST ARM 1 2 3 4 5	METAL 12345			UTILITY PO 12345		DASTAL 2345			
OOPS	YES	NO		DETECTION	1		- 11	1911-944 EV			
OTAL #	OF: CAMERAS I		RADAR	12345 (THER	(NOT LOOPS)		12345			

TYPES

71



Inspection Sheets

LOCATION:	INTERSECTION #:												
ACTIVITY	OPERATING PROPERLY	ADJUSTED	CLEANED	REPARED	REPLACED	REFERRED	REMOVED	NOT APPUCABLE					
Visual inspection of cabinet & miscellaneous equipment	-	···		-									
Documentation present			0.83										
Cabinet prints present													
Controller operating properly		121.03				1							
Controller programming													
Inspect contacts (electromechanical)						-							
Detectors operating properly							and the second s						
Conflict monitor tested for conflict													
Conflict monitor tested for abaant ind.		1972.5 148	-		19-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-	- Stank	101073-2	1 galades a					
Conflict monitor tested for voltage mon.		3223	11-20-00		1.000	unter alle	Care March	120323					
All wiring connections check for tightness.	CONTRACTOR AND CO	1000		MARKE	States	18 SU 15	220-22	17536500					
Signal heads, alignment and unobstructed	States and	1965	in Hill Pr	Links	1. ALTER		2736	The set profit					
Signal lamps operational	and assessed to the state of	199.1		-053	. Roberton	22753	128-86	121.000					
Signal lens, visual inspection	WRITE BEEL	1.8.1	a d.::	- Second	1 2400	TO LEC	3723						
Signal heads, clearance from roadway			19147	1.10	and the	TADATE	1012330	R. S. Sale					
Visual Inspection of signs	125 U.S. 1986	1171	12425	and a	J.DACK	1.22.200	120.003	1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.					
Sign(s), straight and mounting tight	1		127.0		ALC: N	MAR	18.45	1.5480					
Visual Inspection of signal cable		122	Lin		1202.00	Lastal	- Price of	STATE:					



Inspection Sheets

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE REPORT WORK ORDER NUMBER: PAGE 2 OF 2								
LOCATION:	INTERSECTION #:							
ACTIVITY	OPERATING	ADUSTED	CLEANED	REPAIRED	REPLACED	REFERRED	REMOVED	NOT APPLICABLE
Visual Inspection of span cable							-795-0-1964	
Pedestrian detector tested								
Loops inspected for physical damage								
Span attachmenta and hardware tight								
Signal support poles								
Service disconnect visual inspection and locked								
							-Avaes	

SIGNATURE OF TECHNICIAN PREFORMING MAINTENANCE:

DATE:



Maintenance

Update TSI when any changes are made



District 08 Stats

Signals & Flashing Beacons: 271

Flashing Beacons: 88 Signals: 183

Signal Electricians: 7 (2 man crews)

Engineering Technicians: 3

Traffic Engineers: 3



Signal Costs

Installation costs: \$150,000

Utility Costs: w/ LED \$17/month w/ Bulbs \$148/month

District 08

Maintenance Call Outs per month: 66 signal calls during working hours 18 signal call after working hours



Questions?

Contact: David Backstedt (318) 561-5105 David.Backstedt@la.gov

PHOTO ENFORCED

Photo Enforcement and DOTD

Peter A. Allain, PE, PTOE

Photo Enforcement

Highway Safety Existing Installations Legislation Future Installations



Highway Safety

Engineering Enforcement Education



Highway Safety

Engineering Enforcement Education



Photo Enforcement

Highway Safety



• FACT: Photo Enforcement is a tool that has been proven to improve compliance with laws and therefore can improve safety. • 2010 HSM: Photo enforcement can reduce angle crashes by 26%

Highway Safety Manual

Engineering tools that can reduce crashes

Photo Enforcement – 26% Angle +18% rear ends Lighting – 38% nighttime injury Remove unwarranted signal – 24% Convert signal to roundabout – 48% Protected Only – 99% left turn crashes

Existing Red Light Installations in Louisiana



- New Orleans
- Jefferson Parish
- Baton Rouge
- Lafayette

Existing Speed Vans in Louisiana



- Lafayette
- Baker
- Zachary
- Livingston Parish
- Gretna
- Westwego

Existing Installations Approved by DOTD in 2008



- Lafayette
 - Red light running
 - Speeding
- Baton Rouge
 - Red light running

First year's performance for Lafayette

Effectiveness of Red-Light Cameras for Reducing the Number of Crashes at Intersections in the City of Lafayette

Submitted to:

Dan Magri LADOTD

By:

Dr. Helmut Schneider Associate Dean for Research and Economic Development Ourso Family Distinguished Professor of Information Systems and Chaiman of Information Systems and Deckilon Sciences at Louisiana State University Ph.: 225-578-2516 Fax: 225-578-2511 Homepage. http://isds.tus.lau.edu LA.Traffic.Crash.Reports.http://insc.tus.edu

Acknowledgment: The report was prepared with the help of Cory Hutchinson (HSRG) and Christian Raschke (HSRG). The research was supported through a grant from the Louisiana DOTD.

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First year's performance for Lafayette

	Time Frame	Right Angle	Rear End	Other	Total
Before	Jan 07 - Dec 07	45	66	15	126
After	Apl 08 - Mar 09	30	65	15	110
	Percent Change	-33%	-2%	0%	-13%

Highway Safety Manual: Photo enforcement can reduce angle crashes by 26% and increase rear end crashes by 18%.

Legislation



Photo Enforcement 1997 – 2009 Legislation

2001; HB 1591 – Municipalities – Failed in House 2001; SB 1059 – Municipalities – died in committee 2004; HB 1078 – Municipalities – Failed in House 2004; SB 612 – Municipalities – died in House 2005; SB 168 – New Orleans – withdrawn 2005; HB 368 – New Orleans – died in House 2008; SB 396 – Municipalities – Failed in Senate 2009; HB 254 – Statewide – died in committee 2009; HB 480 – Prohibit – died in committee

Photo Enforcement 2010 Legislation

- HB 159 Require vote of people withdrawn
- HB 160 Prohibit deferred
- HB 283 Court oversight -?
- HB 374 Limits fines held in committee
- HB 383 Require vote of people ?
- HB 786 Justice of Peace oversight-?
- HB 859 Prohibit held in committee
- HB 1149 Railroad crossings passed House

HB 1147

Allows the installation of photo enforcement at railroad grade crossing and allocates fees:

- 1/3 of fees to local government
- 1/3 of fees to rail safety fund
- 1/3 of fees to new passenger rail fund



Future Installations

- Red Light Enforcement at DOTD owned signals (Sites will be selected based on safety.)
- Speed vans on state highways will require permits from DOTD.

Future Installations and New DOTD Policy

- Cooperative effort between Louisiana Municipal Association and DOTD.
- Sets statewide standards.
- Permits for DOTD owned signals and for speed enforcement vans/trailers.
 DOTD receives no money.

-		REFERRED TO			
pora	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION	REFERENCE FOR ACTION ANSWER FOR AN EXPANJURE FOR FIRE			
-	PO Box 94245 / Baton Ronge / LA / 20804-5245	FOR YOUR INFORMATION FOR SIGNATURE RETURN TO ME			
A HER VIEND IS FREMO	225-242-4631	PLEASE SHE ME PLEASE TELEPHONE ME TOR APTINOVAL PLEASE ADVISE ME			
MEMORAN	DUM	87 0478			
TO:	Mr. Richard Savoie, PE DOTD Chief Engineer	BY OATE			
FROM:	Mr. Peter A. Allain, PE, PTOE Traffic Engineering Division Administrator	\sim			
SUBJECT:	Photo Enforcement Permits				

New DOTD Policy

DATE: March 31, 2010

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval to allow the Department to issue permits for the installation of photo enforcement systems on the state highway network. This office has determined that it would be in the best interest of the safety of our highways to allow local governments to operate photo enforcement equipment in the state owned highway right-of-way.

Through the attached policy, the Department will regulate the site selection, installation, and operation of these permits to ensure that the photo enforcement systems function to improve safety. The policy was developed as a joint effort between the Department and members of the Louisiana Municipal Association to provide statewide consistency in the use of photo enforcement.

This policy replaces all other polices and memorandums issued on this subject. This memorandum and policy will be attached to all new permits and become part of the permit conditions. Copies of this policy will be forwarded to all districts. Copies will also be sent to the cities of Lafayette and Baton Rouge, which hold existing permits.

Attachment

cc: Louisiana Municipal Association Secretary Sherri LeBas Ms. Connie Standige Each District Administrator Each District Traffic Operations Engineer

> RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL DATE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL DATE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL DATE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL DATE APPROVED 3.31/0 APPROVED 00.10

Safety!

New DOTD Policy

- Definitions
- Purpose
- Permits -Authority, Location, Tolerances, Engineering Reports, Plans, Signing
 System Operation
 Removal

Definitions

Requires violations be at stop bar

Purpose

- Enhance safety
- Grandfathers existing systems for 18 months.

• Permits

- Outlines permit process
- DOTD Traffic Control Device Permit
- Documented authority
- Must have at least **5 crashes in 12 months**
- Speed tolerances of **6-10 mph**
- Red Light tolerance of **o.4 seconds**

Permits (continued)

- Requires engineering report
- Clearance interval (**yellow light**)
- Field inspection of intersection
- Detailed plans
- Minimum signing
- Test plan
- Annual reporting

- System Operation
- Removal
 - If yearly report indicates an increase in crashes.
- Will begin accepting permits
 - August 1, 2010.

"...ensure that photo enforcement systems function to improve safety"



Traffic Signals



Speed Vans

New DOTD Policy

Does not address

- Legality of photo enforcement
 - Due process
 - Civil vs. Moving violations
 - Appeals
 - Amount of fees or fines
 - How the fines are spent

Thank you

Contact Information: Peter Allain, PE, PTOE (225) 242-4631 peter.allain@la.gov



Traffic Engineering 101

Thank You!

See you on June 28th at 2:00PM for:

- Sign Installation and Maintenance
- Work Zones