

**TRAFFIC CONTROL MANUAL
for IN-STREET WORK**

Seattle, WA

2012



Revised and updated by
the Seattle Department of Transportation,
Traffic Management Division

Brian Kemper
Acting City Traffic Engineer





LETTER FROM THE CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER

This manual is the result of input from our traffic engineers, construction inspectors, safety office, crew chiefs, contractors, and the public. We have incorporated ideas from all agencies that work in the roadways, and those performing day to day activities in the street who have to cope with sometimes unpredictable traffic.

We intend to provide everyone who has to work in the street with the information necessary to carry out their tasks safely. It is our desire that all crews who work in the public right of way set up safe work zones that consistently and clearly convey to motorists, pedestrians and cyclists that work is being performed. All users must receive a clear message from signs, cones, delineators, and barricades indicating where to travel and to slow down, creating a safer environment for them and the people working in the street.

Please use this manual to help make your work zones safer and encourage others to participate in a safe working environment. A special thanks to all who contributed to the 2012 edition, making this a manual that works for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Kemper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Brian Kemper, P.E.
Acting City Traffic Engineer





SDOT Director's Rule 3-2012

Applicant: CITY OF SEATTLE Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)	Page 1 of 33	Supersedes: SDOT 3-2012
	Publication: 8/9/2011	Effective: 8/26/2011
Subject: Street and Stadium Vending	Code and Section Reference: Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 15.17	
	Type of Rule: Legislative	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.12.020 and 15.17.250	
Index: Street and Sidewalk Use, Vending	Approved	Date
	 Peter Hahn, Director Seattle Department of Transportation	8/26/2011

I. Background

Seattle's street rights of way are an important public resource. They must safely accommodate multiple modes of travel, offer access around and through the city, provide access to private property, and allow for the delivery of utility services. Temporary construction activities and special events that occur in the right of way impede access. The placement of traffic control devices (e.g., signs, cones, delineators) gives the traveling public advance notice that they are nearing a construction zone. This helps provide for a safer working environment. The traffic control devices are also used to route traffic through or around the work zone as safely and efficiently as possible. Effective traffic control recognizes the priority to accommodate all modes of travel.



Since the 1970's, the City has published a Traffic Control Manual (TCM) for In-Street work to provide guidance in interpreting application of the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Seattle's specific urban conditions. The TCM provides an easy-to-read, all encompassing guide for City crews and private contractors on how to keep work zones and the traveling public safe in construction and special event conditions. The TCM considers the access and mobility needs of all users of the street rights-of-way, including pedestrians, non-motorized vehicles, automobiles, transit and freight.

II. Authority and Rule

This Rule formally adopts the Traffic Control Manual for In-Street Work consistent with the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 11.16.320, which authorizes the Director of Transportation to adopt a Traffic Control Manual for In-Street Work. The Traffic Control Manual (TCM) establishes the City guidelines for the methods and devices to be used for safeguarding and controlling traffic during temporary traffic conditions at and near work in streets, bike paths and trails, pedestrian paths and trails, and in alleys.

The provisions of the TCM are consistent with the authority of the City Traffic Engineer to determine the placement of official traffic control devices as may be deemed appropriate to regulate, warn, or guide traffic for construction, detours, emergencies, and special conditions, as provided by SMC 11.16.340. The guidance and requirements set forth in the TCM are intended to be incorporated in all permits granted for work within and use of the right of way. Such permits are issued by the SDOT Street Use Division and the City of Seattle Special Events Committee.

III. Ease of Use and Location

The full text and illustrations of the Traffic Control Manual can be found on the SDOT web site at: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/trafficcontrolmanual.htm>. The TCM can be downloaded in PDF format, with sketches available in CAD format for use in developing specific traffic control plans.

