



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

2021 TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS STUDY SESSION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- The presentation and discussion brought forth to this Study Session is intended to:
 - Inform the BOCC on the Revision to County's Traffic Operations Policies and Procedures manual
 - Present changes and clarifications of some policies
 - Obtain BOCC feedback and support for proposed changes

BACKGROUND

- Traffic Operations Policy and Procedures available on County website in 2012
- Manual covers local Traffic Operations policy and procedures where there was a further need or identified
- The manual was updated /reorganized in 2017
- The 2021 draft version has been completed in conjunction with PWD's APWA reaccreditation effort. There is a reorganization of the manual, updates, and some policy clarifications for BOCC review.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES



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COLORADO'S FIRST

Revised Date: September 2021

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Purpose
 - Promotes standards for consistent and appropriate application of traffic measures, when they are applied, throughout the County
 - Guidance to staff during project planning
 - Policy, procedure or standard to be followed during construction or implementation
 - Provides reference to our customers
 - Used by staff to evaluate customer concerns



SOME TRAFFIC POLICY AND PROCEDURE LIMITATIONS

- A policy or procedure can't result in a change to the "rules of the road"
 - Federal level defines the "Model Traffic Code" with rules of the road and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is referenced as standard.
 - State Adopts - State "Model Traffic Code" (version of Federal without changing rules of road) but clarifies some discretionary content.
 - County adopts the Model Traffic Code (version of state without changing rules of road) as ordinance.
- Can't cover all possible scenarios/circumstances/appropriate combination of applications
 - Doesn't eliminate all review by County PWD - application of MUTCD and other criteria
 - Review/ Study and Engineering Judgement is called for and required by MUTCD

Arapahoe County BOCC recently adopted the 2020 version of State Model Traffic Code as Arapahoe County Ordinance 2021-03

TRAFFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

- Provide information and clarify policy and procedure where the Federal or State level leave decisions to local discretionary determination.
- Provide local procedures to meet policies
- Provide information, guidance to references
- Cover the typical or frequently asked questions (FAQ)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS OR CHANGES

- Memorial signs for roadway fatalities
- Special warning traffic signs
- New content - "Special event" Permit and Procedures
- Enhance content on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Reorganization of content and creation of three (3) appendices
 - Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)
 - Arapahoe County Sign Details within ROW-
 - Arapahoe County Signing and Striping requirements within ROW

ROADWAY MEMORIAL SIGNS

Background

- The Arapahoe County Memorial Sign Program offers families of roadway fatality victims an additional opportunity to honor and remember their loved ones
- The signs may also serve as education and reminders to other roadway users to be mindful of our shared community responsibility to travel safely and respectfully of ourselves and others



ROADWAY FATALITY MEMORIAL SIGNS

Current Manual Policy

- Upon submission of an application and \$100 fee to offset the costs of sign creation and installation (consistent with the State), the Department will review and consider for approval all requests for roadside Memorial Signage in unincorporated Arapahoe County Right of Way
- Applications will only be accepted from the family of the victim or other sponsors that have an approved family letter of consent indicating support for the application
- Standard sign size will be 24" x 30" with a blue background with White lettering
 - Wording on sign will be approved by County PWD Traffic Staff

ROADWAY FATALITY MEMORIAL SIGNS

Proposed Changes

- BOCC designates approval authority to the Director of Public Works and Development
 - Currently, the BOCC should approve applications
- When six-year memorial period has concluded or removal of the sign, the sign will be donated to the victim's family
 - Currently the County keeps memorial sign in place for two years
- Memorial sign layout and wording
 - Select from County pre-approved signs



SPECIAL WARNING TRAFFIC SIGNS

Background

- Agencies receive requests from citizens to install special warning signs
- These requested signs typically include:
 - Children at play
 - Deaf child
 - Blind child
 - Autistic child



SPECIAL WARNING TRAFFIC SIGNS

Current Manual Policy

- Special warning traffic signs for noting children at play are not installed in the County
 - The rationale is children should not be encouraged to play in the street
- The current manual wording would allow for the installation of warning signs such as "DEAF CHILD" or "BLIND CHILD"

SPECIAL WARNING TRAFFIC SIGNS

Proposed changes

- Removal of these types of special warning signs from the County manual thereby creating the policy the County does not install these types of signs
 - This would include both "CHILDREN AT PLAY" along with types such as "BLIND CHILD"
 - These signs are not approved by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
 - There are additional considerations for this policy to be affirmed:
 - Ineffectiveness of signs
 - Opposition from some disability advocacy groups
 - Signs not always removed once condition is no longer met

SPECIAL EVENTS

Background

- The County receives requests and applications for multiple types of special event activities which have the potential to impact the traveling public
 - Often times this results in the issuance of a Zoning temporary use permit since many events utilize not only the public right-of-way but also private property
- Special events requiring a permit include, but are not limited to: parades; fairs; exhibitions; motion picture filming; bicycle events, foot races, or walks; or similar events taking place on or near public roadways or rights-of-way within unincorporated Arapahoe County
- Traffic Operations staff shall have primary responsibility for or shall provide support to County staff in the role of subject matter experts as needed for technical review of permit applications and supporting documents with respect to any traffic related items

SPECIAL EVENTS

Current Manual Policy

- The current Traffic Operations Policy and Procedures manual does not address special events
- Past requests have been handled through a Traffic Operations Review of a "Parade/ race / block Party" (not discussed in manual).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Proposed Manual Policy

- While the review and permitting of special events involves elements that go beyond traffic operations and engineering, there is a role of Traffic staff in events
 - Traffic staff serve as subject matter experts reviewing applications for the handling of traffic affected by the event
 - This includes:
 - Reviewing temporary traffic control plans
 - Reviewing detour routes
 - Recommending traffic elements related to the event

ENHANCE CONTENT ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Background

- Traffic staff receive several similar requests on a frequent basis from the public as well as internal County staff
- It is common to publish a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document that provides a quick response to those questions

ENHANCE CONTENT ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Current Manual FAQ's

- The current manual lists a few questions along with a response
- Questions include:
 - How do I request a traffic sign be installed?
 - How do I request that a traffic study be conducted in my area?
 - Are speed bumps/humps allowed on my street?
 - What is the speed limit for residential areas?
 - How are speed limits established?
 - How do I request that my street be used for a block party?
 - How do I request the installation of a street light?
 - How do I obtain traffic information (i.e, volume counts, accidents, etc)?

ENHANCE CONTENT ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Proposed Changes

- Traffic staff is seeking to enhance the FAQ content in the manual to both provide additional, and answered questions, along with providing more information related to the response
- The manual will categorize the FAQ's into categories:
 - General
 - Signs
 - Flashing beacons
 - Traffic signals
 - Speed and safety
 - Streetlights
 - Roundabouts
 - Information requests
 - Block parties

ENHANCE CONTENT ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Example

- Below is an example of an enhanced FAQ

How do I request a green left turn arrow at an existing traffic signal?

Green left turn arrows can provide additional protection for both left turning drivers and for pedestrians crossing the path of the left turning drivers.

- ***They can also make overall intersection operations worse if they aren't really needed since they take a piece of the signal timing pie away from other users.***
- ***For that reason, Arapahoe County Traffic Operations considers multiple factors like volume of left turning traffic, volume of opposing traffic, crash history, number of lanes, etc., when looking at adding a green left turn arrow at an existing traffic signal.***
- ***If you have additional questions regarding a green left turn arrow at an existing County traffic signal, please contact us at 720-874-6500.***

REORGANIZATION OF CONTENT

Why it was reorganized

- The current manual provides information regarding traffic policies and procedures that cover an array of content
- As information has been added over time, staff recognized a need to reorganize the content within the document

REORGANIZATION OF CONTENT

Proposed Changes

- In order to establish an organized manual and create a logical flow, staff has created new appendices
- Items that were once in the main body of the manual and now reside in an appendix include:
 - Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)
 - Arapahoe County Sign Details within ROW
 - Addresses the placement of traffic signs with respect to heights and distances from the roadway
 - Arapahoe County Signing and Striping requirements within ROW
 - Addresses a number of specifications related to traffic signs and roadway pavement markings

DISCUSSION

Staff would like to have support from the Board of County Commissioners and in the recognition of use of the

“ARAPAHOE COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES”

Staff request BoCC/County Attorney guidance for the appropriate method of adopting specific policies and/or document in its entirety

PRESENTATION OVER



ANY QUESTIONS?