

Memorandum

Public Works Department

DATE: May 16, 2016

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Julian Dresang, Traffic Engineer (350-8025)

THROUGH: Don Bessler, Public Works Director (350-8205)
Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director – Transportation (350-8854)

SUBJECT: Barricading Manual Update
May 26, 2016 City Manager’s Announcements

The purpose of this memo is to update the Council on the Tempe traffic barricading program and the changes that are reflected in the 2016 Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual to better manage the system for our residents and the community. Major changes to the Tempe Barricading Manual include:

- Implementing peak hour traffic barricading restrictions between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. meaning work in the right-of-way is limited to emergency work or as approved by the City Traffic Engineer during these times.
- Acknowledge Tempe is unique in the Valley and our situation requires a stronger and more visible demonstration of empathy including improved notification of street restrictions and closures to residents and businesses.
- Improved accommodations for transit users, bicycles/pedestrians and people with disabilities. These accommodations include:
 - Bus stops located within a reasonable distance from the closed bus stop.
 - Advanced notification signage of a bike lane closure.
 - Share the road signage for bicycles.

BACKGROUND

It’s the policy of the Public Works Department to manage and minimize the impact of construction on city streets in Tempe. On average, the city processes over 1,400 traffic control plans each year for placement of barricades in the public right-of-way related to private development, utility construction, city asset management work and associated capital improvement program construction. Most utilities are located under city streets requiring the balancing of improving infrastructure and managing traffic control.

The city is governed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) published by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), and in 2009 adopted the Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual as a supplement to address local conditions. The manual recognizes the need for providing a safe working

environment for those performing the work and those traveling through the construction zone while allowing for the successful completion of construction and maintenance projects.

In March 2016, the Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual was updated to better reflect the needs of the city. The purpose of the manual is to provide clear and standardized guidelines and requirements for the proper planning and placement of temporary traffic control devices in the public right-of-way. The goals for temporary traffic control are to:

- establish a cooperative work environment with contractors and barricade companies to ensure that all traffic control barricading for construction and maintenance within the City's right-of-way are conducted safely with minimal disruption to the transportation system (vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit);
- reduce conflicts and coordinate street restrictions between multiple construction projects;
- provide timely and accurate information to the workgroup and public on street restrictions resulting from construction activities and special events; and
- assist contractors and event promoters in timely completion of their project and event.

To better address the placement of barricades on city streets, staff implemented the following:

1. Developed a PR campaign with a focus on empathy, which included the following key messages:
 - The street restrictions and closures are part of the city's ongoing asset management program, capital improvement program, as well as private development projects around the city.
 - The city works with private and public entities on over 1,400 construction projects annually that affect traffic.
 - During June and July, Tempe sees a 20 to 30 percent reduction in traffic and that is why we plan these types of closures and restrictions to occur in the summer.
 - Residents can use the city's website for more information and to subscribe to get notifications.
2. Provided communication to all city contractors engaged in city projects as well as current open permit holders and their barricade companies to elevate their awareness of the impact of their activities on Tempe residents.
3. Placed conditions on permits issued after June 15, 2015 stating that barricading should be limited to work zones that can be accomplished in a day and that the work zone must be active when barricades are in place.
4. Conducted night work when possible in non-residential areas for shorter duration work.

ATTACHEMENTS

- PowerPoint
- Executive Summary and Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual