

## WORK ZONE BULLETIN #9/2017

### Police Enforcement

#### Summary

When a work zone speed limit is lower than the highway gazetted speed, dangerous situations can be created by motorists who do not comply. The reduced motorist reaction time and the speed differential increase the risk to both workers and other drivers. Enforcement of the work zone speed limit and other traffic laws can significantly improve compliance and safety through the construction zone.

The Alberta government has a contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to complete traffic enforcement on provincial highways. As photo radar is currently prohibited on provincial highways, traffic enforcement is limited by the availability of police officers. Extensive and continuous enforcement at all highway work zone locations is typically not possible. As well, in some cases, enforcement may not have a significant benefit. Due to these factors, police officer use should be reserved for work zones that have obvious operational problems. The purpose of this Bulletin is to describe the situations where enforcement should be considered as well as to provide information on the procedure to request and implement work zone enforcement.

#### Key Changes

##### *Type of Project*

Typically, traffic enforcement in provincial highway work zones takes a reactive approach because of budget and labour constraints. Proper work zone design including appropriate speed limits, barrier protection, and enhanced traffic control devices are the first resource for addressing safety issues. More extensive speed management techniques shall be considered when at least one of the following behaviors is observed:

- Collisions or near misses on the approach to or in the work zone
- Aggressive braking by motorists (for example, at stop conditions or near queues)
- Low compliance to the work zone speed limit
- Worker or public complaints about safety

## *Procedure for Requesting Traffic Enforcement*

1. Once safety issues have been identified and enforcement determined to be the best option, the Department should contact the RCMP. The Department should provide the RCMP with information about the work zone including the location, work zone design, desired level of enforcement and current safety hazards.
2. The RCMP will advise the extent and duration of enforcement that can be provided based on the availability of their officers.
3. The Department and RCMP will work together to finalize the enforcement type and hours/days of enforcement throughout the project.

An ideal enforcement strategy will address the hazards and issues in the specific work zone. Proper communication between all parties is important to ensure that the best use of available resources is made.

### *Enforcement Type and Duration*

Examples of work zone enforcement types include stationary enforcement, active enforcement, circulating enforcement, and enforcement packs. When choosing the enforcement type to be used in a work zone, police availability, work zone design, and the effect on compliance should be considered. Work zones are physically constrained and by their nature, may prohibit the safe use of some forms of enforcement. When planning an enforcement strategy, the approximate locations where RCMP will be stationed should be established beforehand.

Duration of enforcement is similarly limited by police availability. Enforcement may be planned to target specific time periods where workers are exposed to greater risk, such as when completing a particular activity, during peak hour traffic, or during nighttime hours. The RCMP will be ultimately responsible for choosing the enforcement type and duration.

### **Effective Date**

May 9, 2017

### **Contact**

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### **References**

N/A

**Approved**

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