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# Introduction:

The IWZ Toolbox has been prepared as a guideline for selecting an appropriate Intelligent Work Zone (IWZ) System for existing work zone traffic issues and to mitigate anticipated issues on scheduled projects. The IWZ System descriptions contained in this toolbox are intended as brainstorming material and should lead to practical solutions to a project's unique problems. The examples are purposely left void of many dimensions, except where particular distances are highly recommended, and engineering judgement is required to customize the system to a project.

IWZ Systems may be sorted into 3 category types based upon detectable stimuli: "**Traffic**", "**Vehicle**", **and** "**Environmental**". The 3 categories are shown below with their typically associated systems:

**Traffic Responsive Systems** collect and respond to **average** traffic characteristics such as speed an volume of a group of vehicles and the systems react to **trends** of increasing/decreasing values. The combination of these basic systems form the basis for **Route Management Systems** (or Traveler Information Systems) by analyzing and reporting information in various ways. These applications may include:

- Travel Time Information (Trip Time or Estimated Delay)
- Speed Advisory Information
- Congestion Advisory
- Stopped Traffic Advisory
- Dynamic Merge (Late or Early)
- Traffic Responsive Temporary Signals
- Temporary Ramp Metering

Vehicle Responsive Systems collect and respond to individual vehicle characteristics such as speed, dimensions, and location. When adverse conditions are detected by these systems, motorist need immediate warnings for quick response. These applications may include:

- Excessive Speed Warning (including Dynamic Speed Display Signs)
- Over Dimension Warning
- Work Space / Haul Road Intrusion Warning
- Construction Vehicle Warnings

**Environmentally Responsive Systems** collect and respond to changing non-traffic conditions of weather, roadway or working characteristics such as visibility conditions or roadway surface conditions and hazards. These applications may include:

• Hazardous Condition Warnings (Flooding, Ice, Fog, Smoke, Dust, etc.)

The real-time data collected for any of these systems may be combined, averaged, analyzed for trends, and utilized for several informational uses. For example, data collected for 'Stopped Traffic Warnings' may be to control a 'Dynamic Merge' system or to calculate "Travel Time' through a corridor.

Temporary Traffic Control Devices may be equipped with advanced communication and/or remote control capabilities which that do not react "intelligently" to detectable field data, but the devices provide safer working conditions or improve incident response. Although these devices may not be "Intelligent", they have been included in the IWZ Toolbox as additional safety tools for consideration when an IWZ System is being deployed. These applications may include:

- Changeable Work Zone Signage (WZ Speed Limit Signs)
- Traffic Surveillance Cameras (removed from Toolbox)

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# Typical System Components:

Each IWZ System in the Toolbox is a collection of standard system components which have been combined to produce a useful real-time system. The individual component functions include the collection of data, verifying the accuracy of the data, transmitting the data, storing and managing the data, analyzing the data, and/or providing the data to the motorist.

## Detection Components: The detectors may include:

- Radar
- Pneumatic Road Tubes
- Light Beams
- Acoustical
- Ultrasonic
- Magnetic
- Piezo-Electric
- Video
- RFID
- Probe Injection Technologies, etc.

### System Monitoring Components: typical

redundancies should be built into most systems (based upon risk assessment for the system failure) and the various types of quality control testing or system monitoring may be utilized.

**System Communication Components:** the typical forms of transmitting data, some of these may include:

- Cell Phones
- Internet Wireless Access Points
- Radio
- Hard wired
- Optical, etc.

**System Analysis Components:** analysis algorithms are designed or modified for each application of an IWZ System to fit the conditions of the project. Algorithms can be designed with apparent limitations and strengths, and field testing is necessary to ensure the quality of the data analysis.

**Data Management Components:** the storage of data and analysis of the data for various trends, events, etc. may utilize many different database systems.

**Dynamic Informational Components:** dynamic components provide information to the motorists and may include:

- 511 Systems (internet & phone/cell phone),
- Changeable message signs (CMS) in dynamic mode,
- Static signs with dynamic features,
- Remotely activated traffic control devices,
- Audible or visual alarms,
- Real-time highway advisory radio (HAR),
- Public media announcements,
- CB Radio, etc.

# Supplementing Existing System Components:

Mn/DOT, through it's Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) and out-state TOCC's, has the capability to provide a variety of IWZ Systems for Mn/DOT construction and maintenance projects. However, Mn/DOT's detection devices, communications networks or traveler information systems may not be adequate for a proposed IWZ System. Discrepancies may be due to construction interrupting permanent installations, or that the existing system components do not extend to the project area.

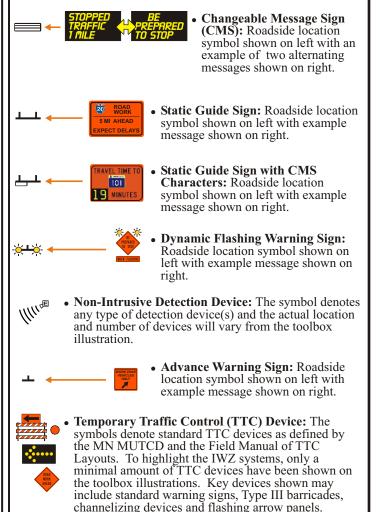
IWZ System components provided by a contractor would supplement the services of the RTMC or TOCC's, when various devices/services are not currently available and may include any of the component types listed above.

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## DEFINITIONS FOR USE IN THIS DOCUMENT

- Changeable Message Sign (CMS): a sign that is capable of displaying more than one message, changeable manually, by remote control, or by automatic control. The device is considered "portable" when trailer mounted. The device may be operated in one of two modes:
  - Standard Mode: message is programmed to remain displayed until changed by the operator or via a timer.
  - **Dynamic Mode:** the message is programmed to respond to traffic operating characteristics or roadway conditions.
- Static Sign: a message for the motorist is printed on a standard sign, either regulatory, warning or guide signs.
- Advisory Speed: a recommended speed for vehicles based on the current roadway conditions or operating characteristics. Advisory Speeds are not enforceable.
- **Speed Limit:** the speed applicable to a section of highway as established by law.
- **Travel Time:** the estimated amount of drive time from the motorist's current location to an identified location, generally limited to approx 10 miles maximum distance.
- **Travel Delay:** the estimated amount of extra time the motorist will incur due to traffic conditions in a work zone located downstream. Generally useful for spot locations at a great distance away from the motorist's current location, which provides alternate route possibilities.
- **Devices (components):** the individual parts or subsystems that makeup a working IWZ System. Examples include: cameras, various detectors, signs, data monitoring or recording equipment, communication systems, TTC devices, and remotely activated alarms, etc.
- **IWZ System:** An automated system of devices that provides motorists and/or workers **real-time** information for improved safety and mobility through a work zone. The devices are integrated to monitor traffic operating characteristics or roadway conditions and react with a predetermined response.
- Warrants: conditions which should be satisfied before considering an IWZ system for deployment as part of a project's temporary traffic control plan.
- **Benefits:** anticipated affects mobility and safety when the system is properly designed and deployed. Mobility and safety measures may be within the work zone or surrounding network, and may include the public, the workers, or the constructability of the project.
- **Options:** various options may be available for portions of the IWZ Systems. The options should be considered when they achieve satisfactory results with lower levels of 'system complication' and cost.

### SYMBOLS USED IN IWZ TOOLBOX ILLUSTRATIONS



### **GENERAL IWZ TOOLBOX NOTES**

- Advance warning signs and other standard temporary traffic control devices have not been shown on this figure. Refer to the MN MUTCD including the 2007 Field Manual or the TTC Layout Templates for typical layout examples.
- All IWZ Guide Signs and CMS should be reviewed by the Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, Safety, & Operations for design and message approval.
- Approved CMS messages should be listed in the Special Provisions, and approx CMS locations should shown on the TTC plans. All CMS displays should be blank when messages are not warranted.
- Refer to the Toolbox Definitions Section for graphic symbols and terms.
- Toolbox Illustrations are NOT Drawn to Scale.

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**TOOLBOX SYMBOLS and TERMINOLOGY** 

IWZ TOOLBOX page 3

# **IWZ SYSTEMS LISTED IN THIS PUBLICATION**

- Travel Time Information Trip Time or Estimated Delay
- Speed Advisory Information
- Congestion Advisory
- Stopped Traffic Advisory
- Dynamic Merge Late or Early
- Traffic Responsive Temporary Signals
- Temporary Ramp Metering
- Excessive Speed Warning incl. Dynamic Speed Display Signs
- Over Dimension Warning
- Work Space / Haul Road Intrusion Warning
- Construction Vehicle Warnings Merging, Crossing & Exiting
- Hazardous Condition Warnings Road Surface or Visibility
- Changeable Work Zone Signage incl. WZ Speed Limits

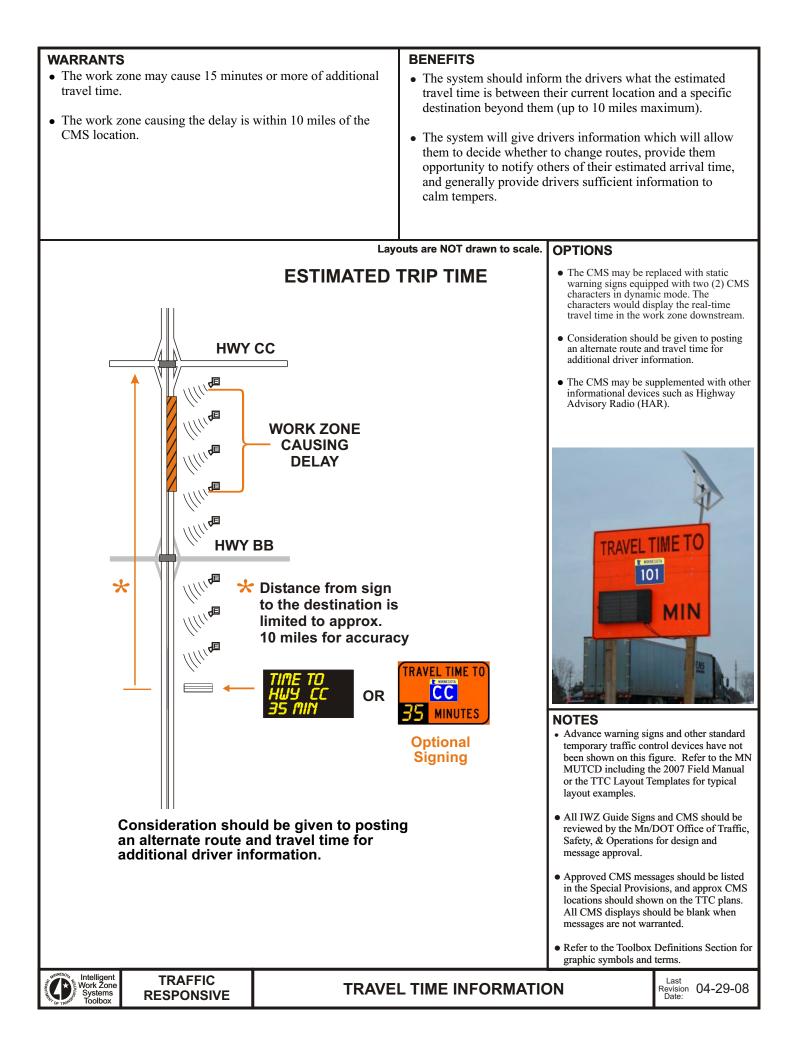
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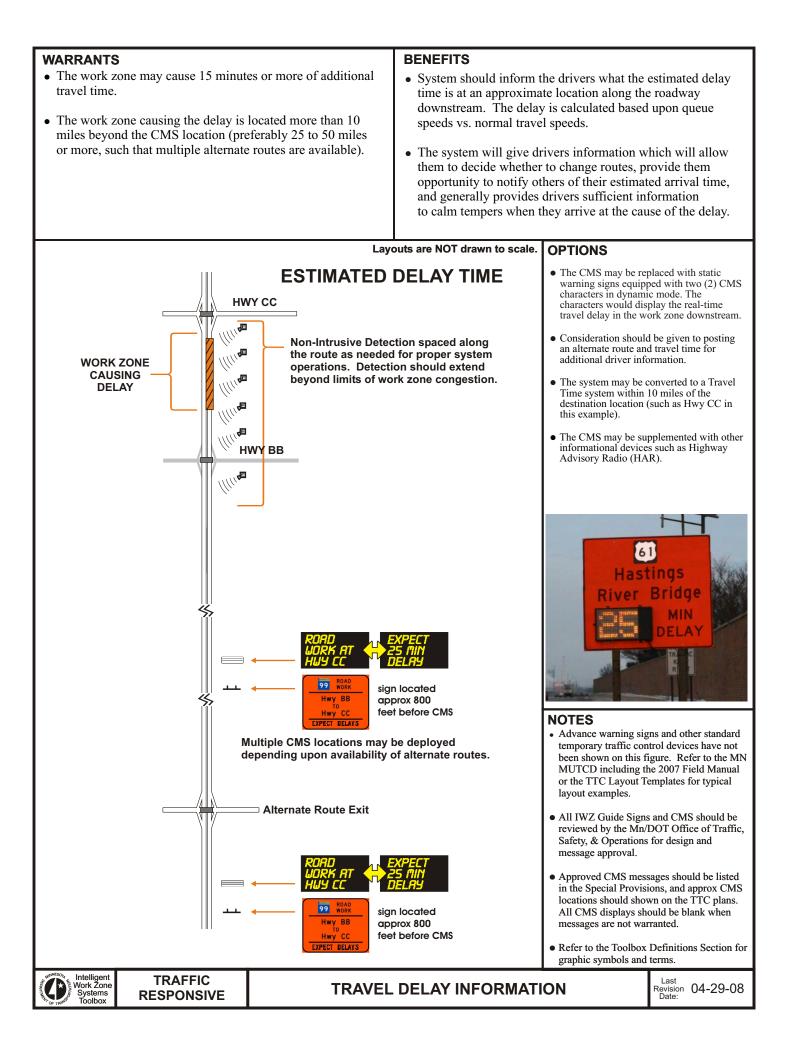
**Note:** The IWZ Toolbox Sheets contained within this document are preliminary illustrations and may not accurately represent all the IWZ Systems as typically deployed.

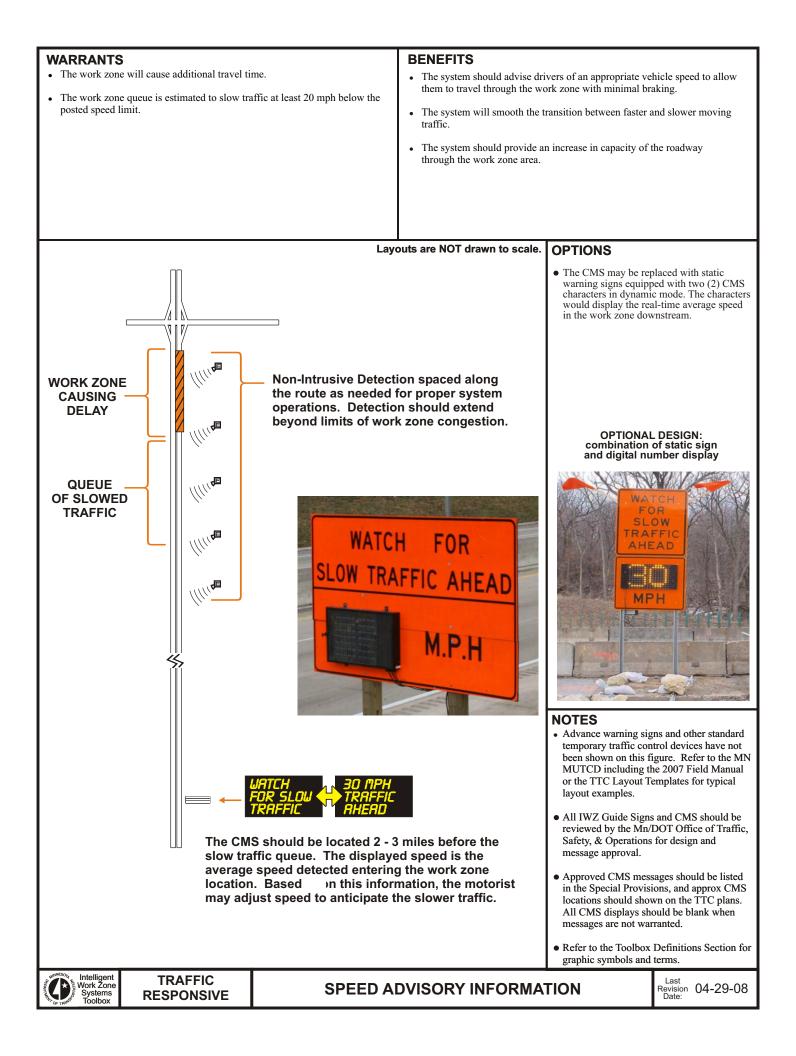
The systems may be combined, modified, enhanced or simplified as necessary for a particular project. Please use these toolbox sheets to brainstorm IWZ possibilities, and consider what conditions may be needed to make the application viable. When a system is deployed, we hope to quantify these conditions further, with refined warrants on the system's toolbox sheet. We also wish to quantify benefits derived from the deployments where ever possible in addition to the intuitive benefits that may be reaped from the IWZ systems.

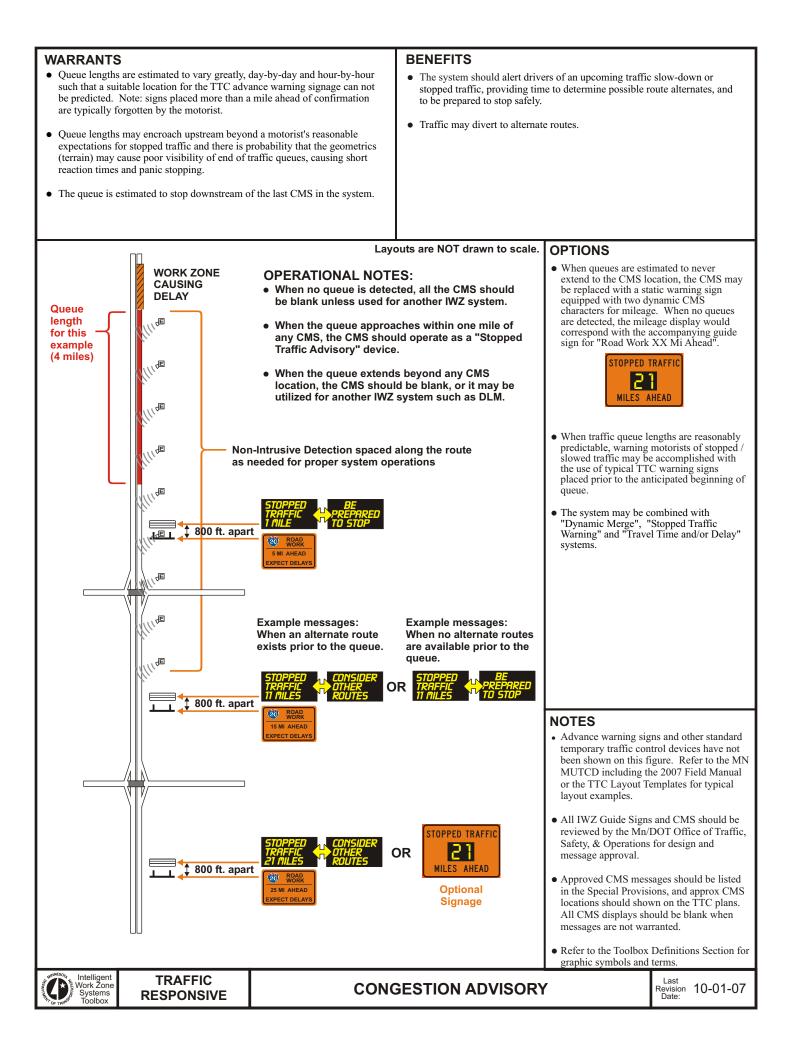
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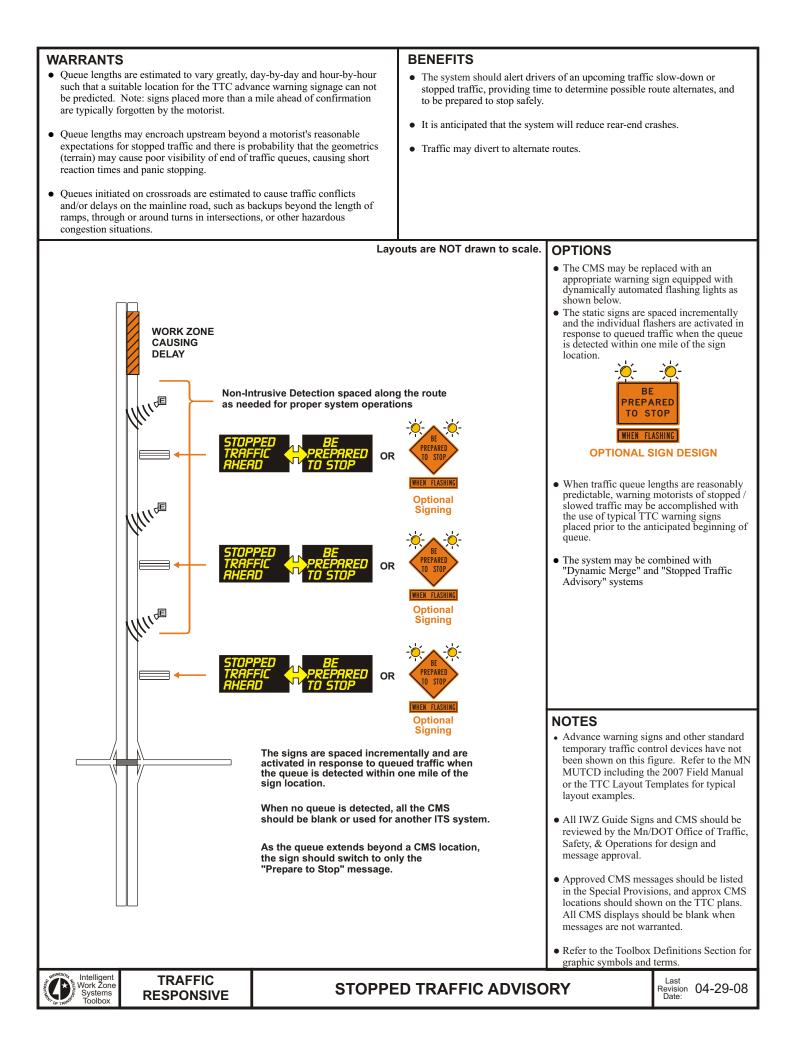
TOOLBOX INDEX









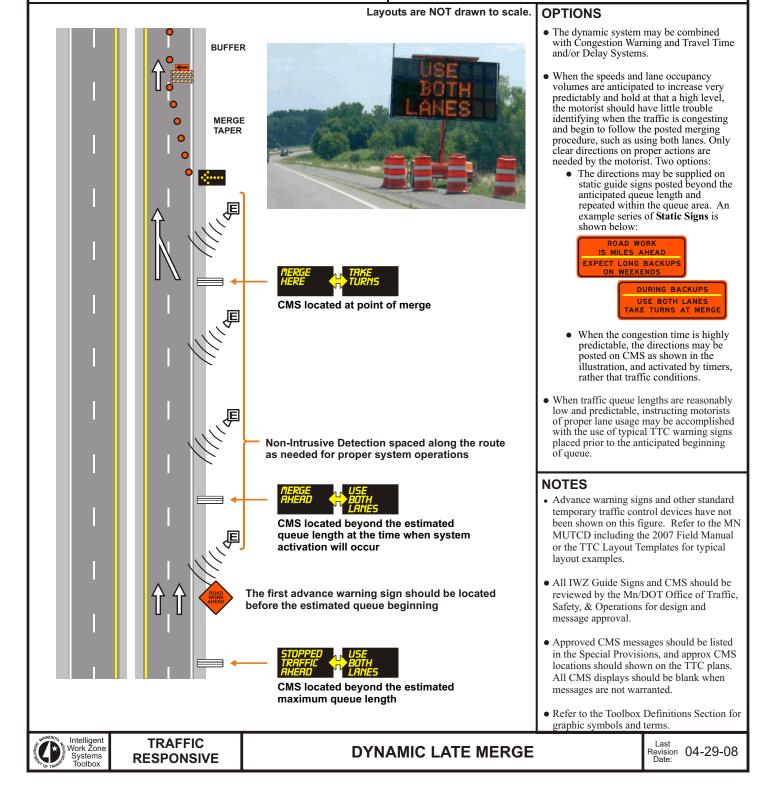


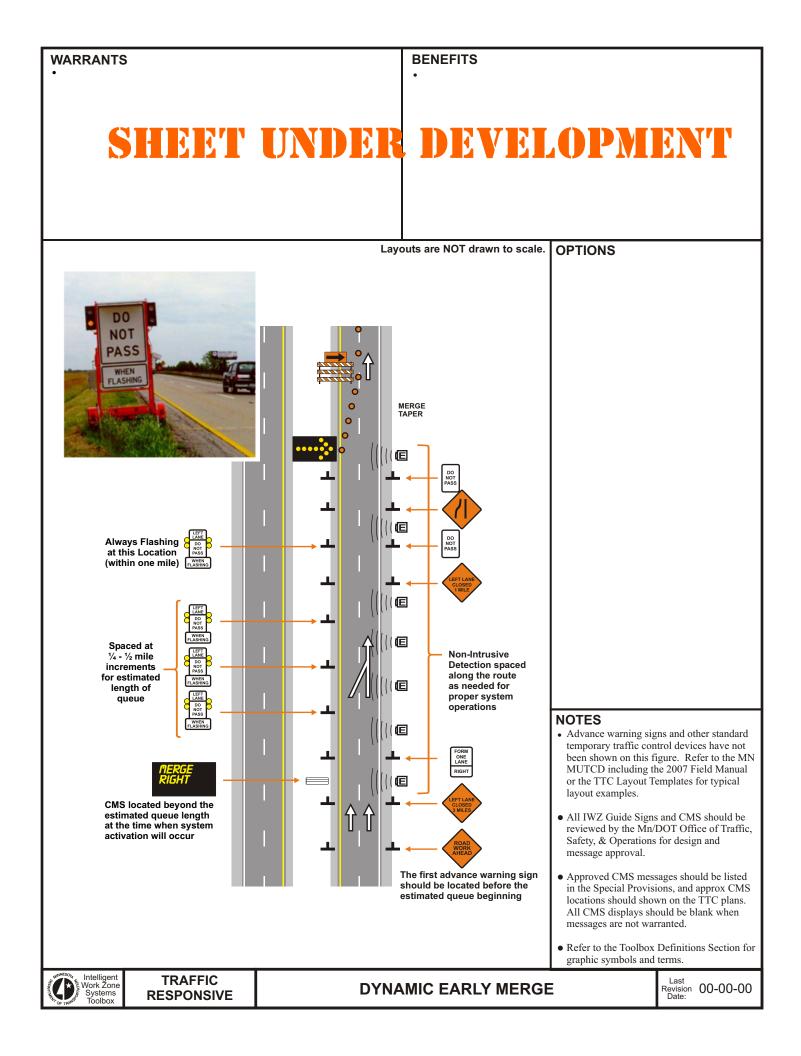
### WARRANTS

- Two lanes of must merge into one direction will be closed to traffic and traffic must merge.
- Although queues may develop at low volumes for many reasons, typically, the volume must exceed 1500 vehicles/hour to sustain a queue that was caused by merging lanes.
- Estimated queue lengths may encroach beyond an upstream intersection or interchange operations.
- The speeds and lane occupancy volumes are anticipated to vary unpredictably causing the motorist to have trouble identifying the best lane usage practice, such as using both lanes versus moving into the continuous thru-lane.

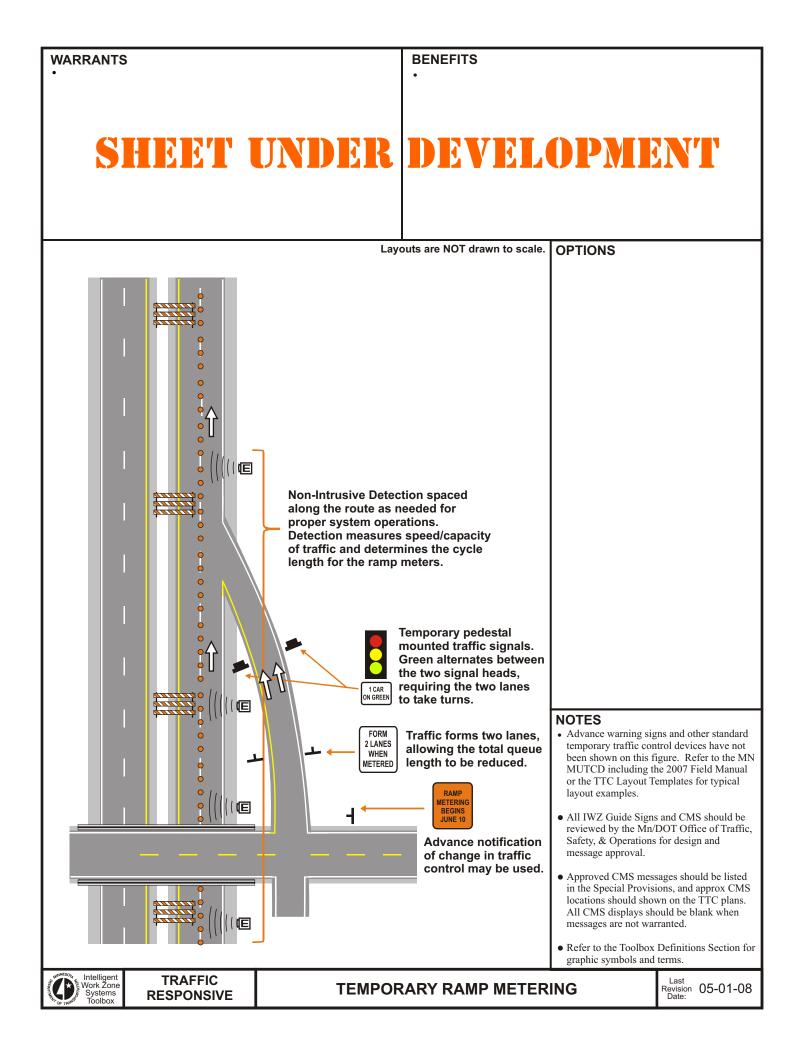
### BENEFITS

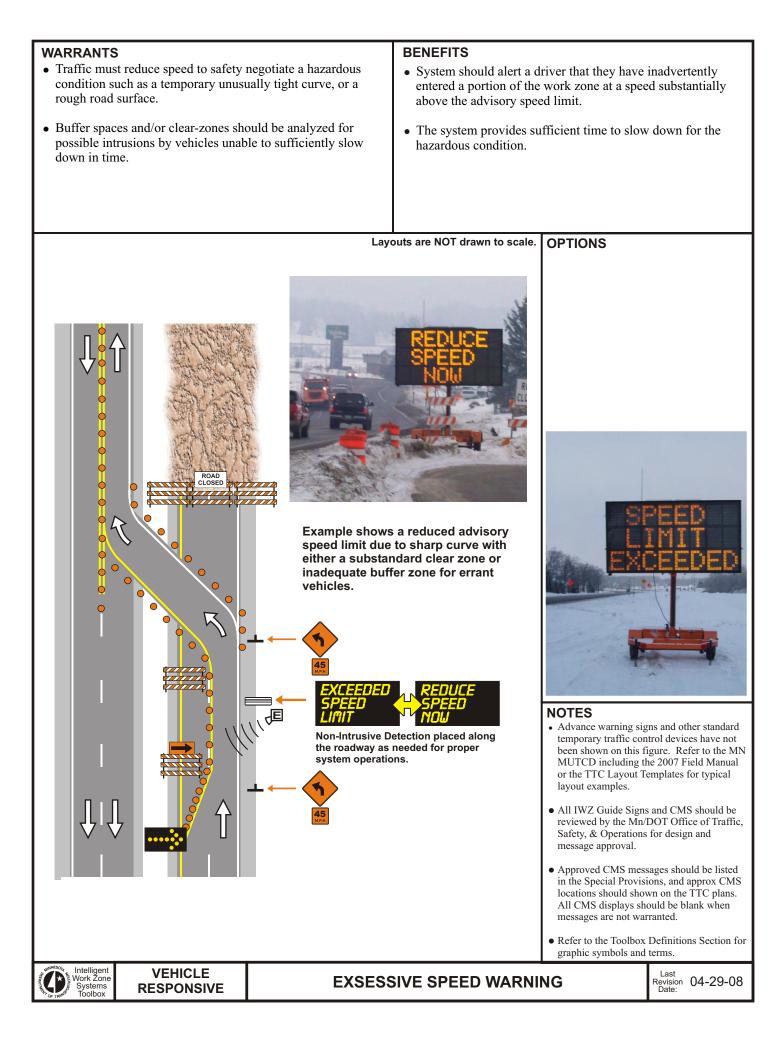
- The system should alert drivers of an upcoming traffic slow-down or stopped traffic, and inform them to use both lanes until the designated merge point.
- It is anticipated that the system will reduce the length of the upstream queue by 40%, which may reduce conflicts at nearby intersections.
- By utilizing both traffic lanes, the differential speed between lanes is greatly reduced since both lanes travel at approx the same speed.
- Motorists are given positive directions on lane usage and merging which clears misunderstandings between drivers and reduces road rage.





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Intelligent Work Zone Systems ToolboxTRAFFIC RESPONSIVETRAFFIC RESPONSIVE TEMPORARY SIGNALSLast Revision Date:10-01-07 Date:	Work Zone Systems Toolbox		TRAFFIC RESPO	ONSIVE TEMPORAR	ST SIGNALS	)7

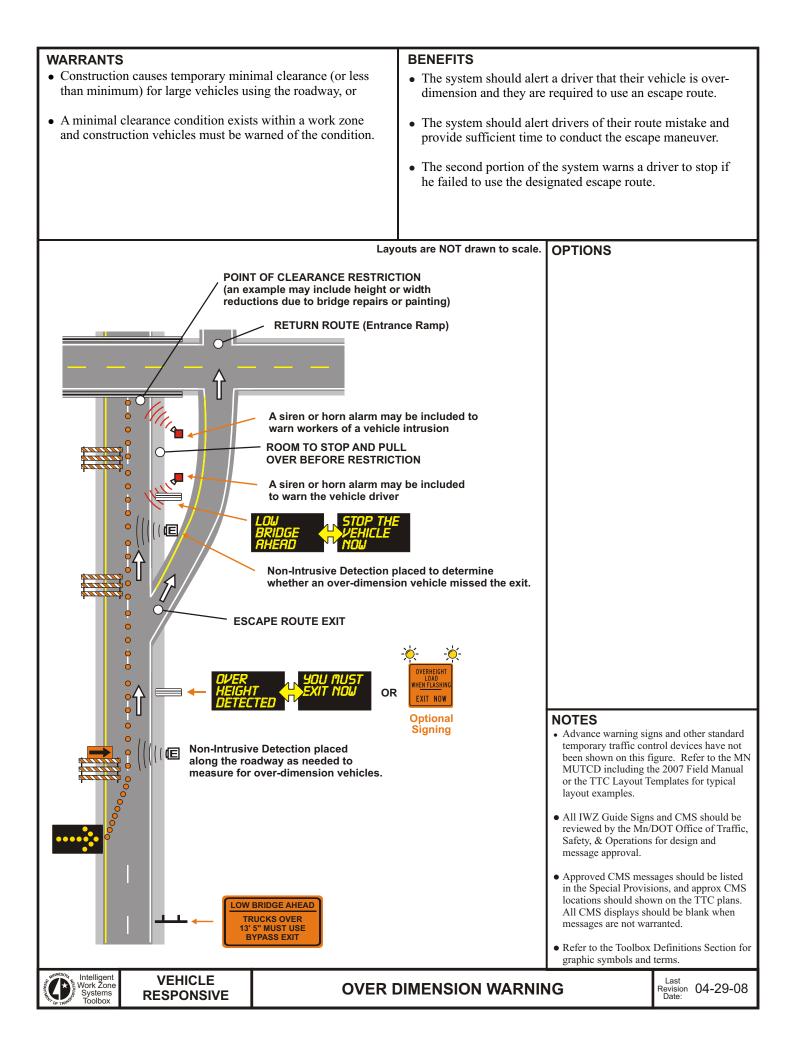


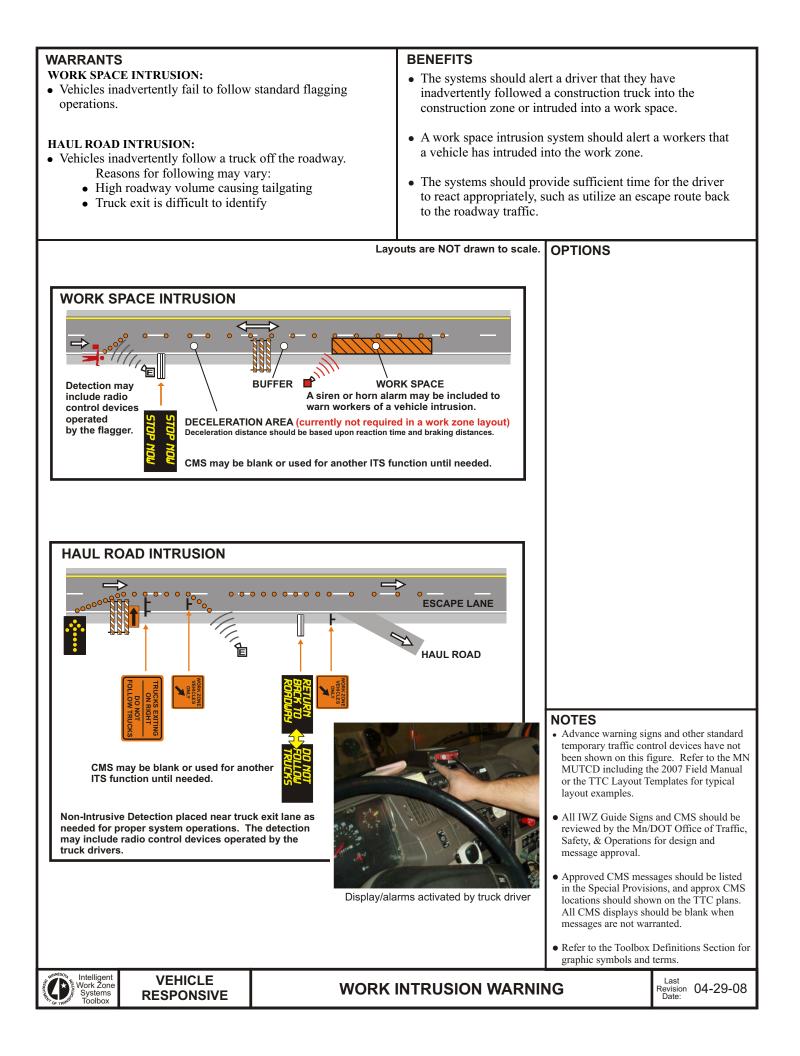


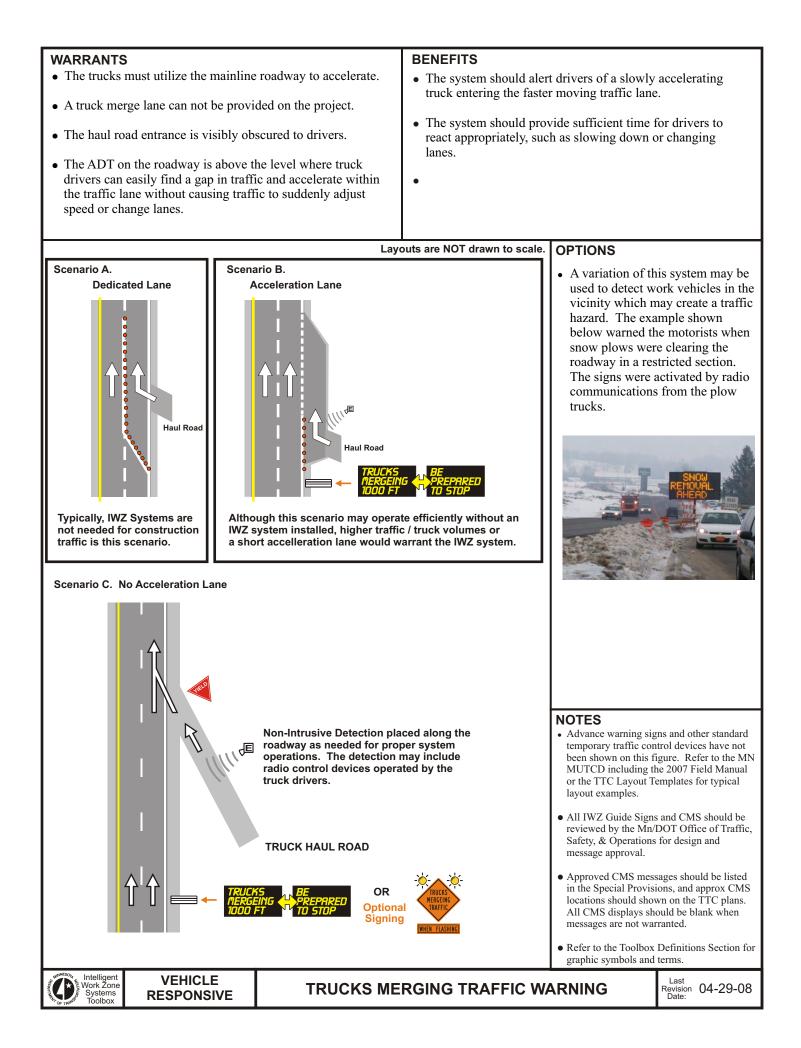
WARRANTS	BENEFITS		
<ul> <li>Workers will be located adjacent to the open traffic lane, or</li> </ul>		• The system should alert a driver of their current speed and	
	• The system should alert a driver of their current speed and what the advisory speed is posted for the situation.		
<ul> <li>Hazardous roadway conditions require extra driving</li> </ul>			
precautions.	• The system will alert drivers		
		e passing workers or entering a	
	hazardous roadway condition	1.	
	L RAIN		
		NIMUM SPECIFICATIONS DSD SIGN EQUIPMENT:	
this layout (in RED) are recommendations that The work crew (or poor road be visible to the driver from	a condition) should		
are currently being the Advisory Speed Plaque	and DSD sign display	play size of the DSD sign is	
studied for optimum Preliminary studies show 5	00' is the optimum dep	endent on the size of the speed	
sign usage and location, distance for speed reductio	ii, liicicioic, il s auviscu	ue used. gue size DSD display MIN.	
This preliminary layout be followed until workers move within the wo		X 18" 10" character	
Should be followed until location should be re-positi	oned such that it 24"	X 24" 10"	
a final report made. remains within 500 feet (min	n) and 2500 feet (max) $\frac{30''}{26''}$	X 30" 14" character	
of the worker location. The	uistances may be	X 36" 14"	
adjusted following further s usage in work zones.	tudies of the DSD sign The	static sign (YOUR SPEED)	
	show	uld be black letters on a	
		prescent orange background	
	will a share with a the DOD	en used with a work zone advisory ed plaque. The font should be	
	ne Advisory Speed	inimum of 4" high when used	
	attached to the warning with	n a 10" display character, and	
		when used with a 14" or greater	
	shall be black on	racter display sign.	
flourescent ora	nge. OP	ERATIONAL GUIDELINES:	
500' min. When utilizing	the DSD sign with either		
a regulatory sp	eed limit or work zone	DSD sign should remain blank en no traffic is detected. When	
	traff	fic speed is detected over the	
	) sign shall be aither	isory speed plaque, the sign	
<b>XX</b> placed adjacen	t to the posted speed	uld blink at 50-60 cycles/minute. speeds detected over a set max	
	e appropriate speed	ed (generally 10 mph over the	
250' min. limit sign shall DSD device.	be mounted to the post	ted limit on low speed roadways	
		20 mph over on high speed	
	road blar	dways) the display should go	
OPTIONAL:			
Warning sign with speed advisory	NO		
(see note below)	• Ad	vance warning signs and other standard nporary traffic control devices have not	
	bed	en shown on this figure. Refer to the MN	
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		riewed by the Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, fety, & Operations for design and	
When used, the optional advance warning		essage approval.	
sign with speed advisory should be placed	• Ap	proved CMS messages should be listed	
a minimum distance 'A' ahead of the workers	in	the Special Provisions, and approx CMS	
and a minimum 250 feet ahead of the DSD		ations should shown on the TTC plans. CMS displays should be blank when	
device location.	me	essages are not warranted.	
The distance 'A' is the Advance Warning Sign Spacing	hasad linon the Postad		
The distance 'A' is the Advance Warning Sign Spacing Speed Limit and is found in the Field Manual (Part 6K	of the MnMUTCD).	fer to the Toolbox Definitions Section for uphic symbols and terms.	

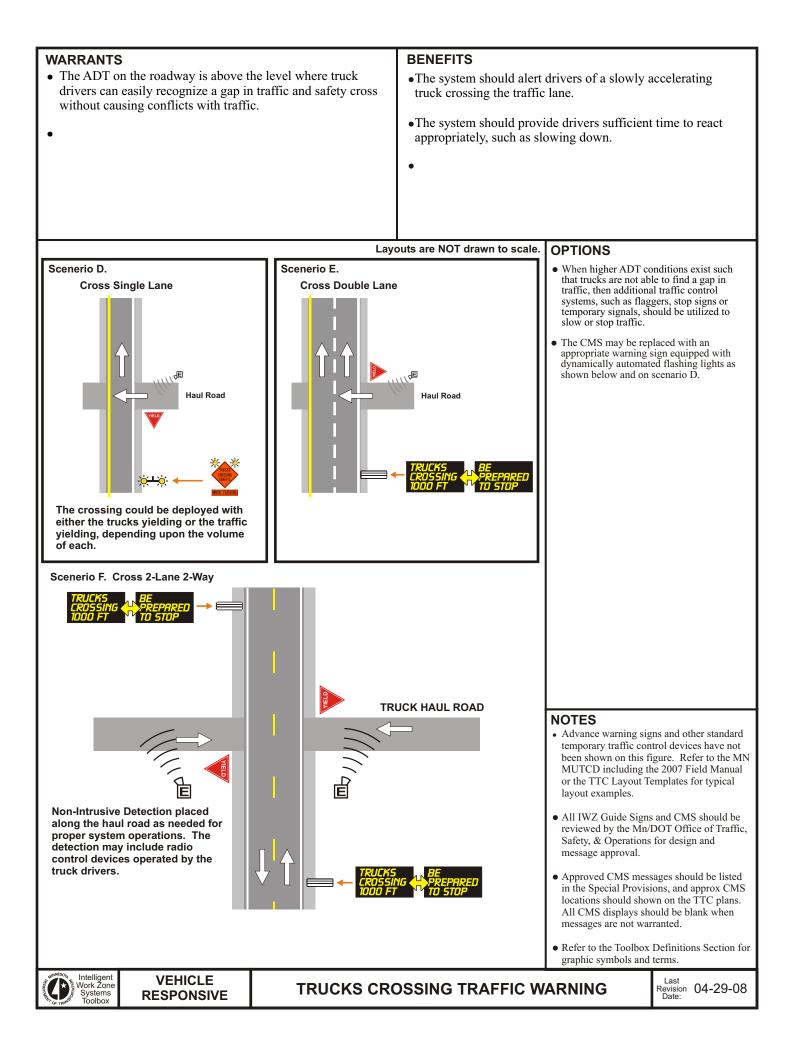
Work Zone Systems Toolbox	
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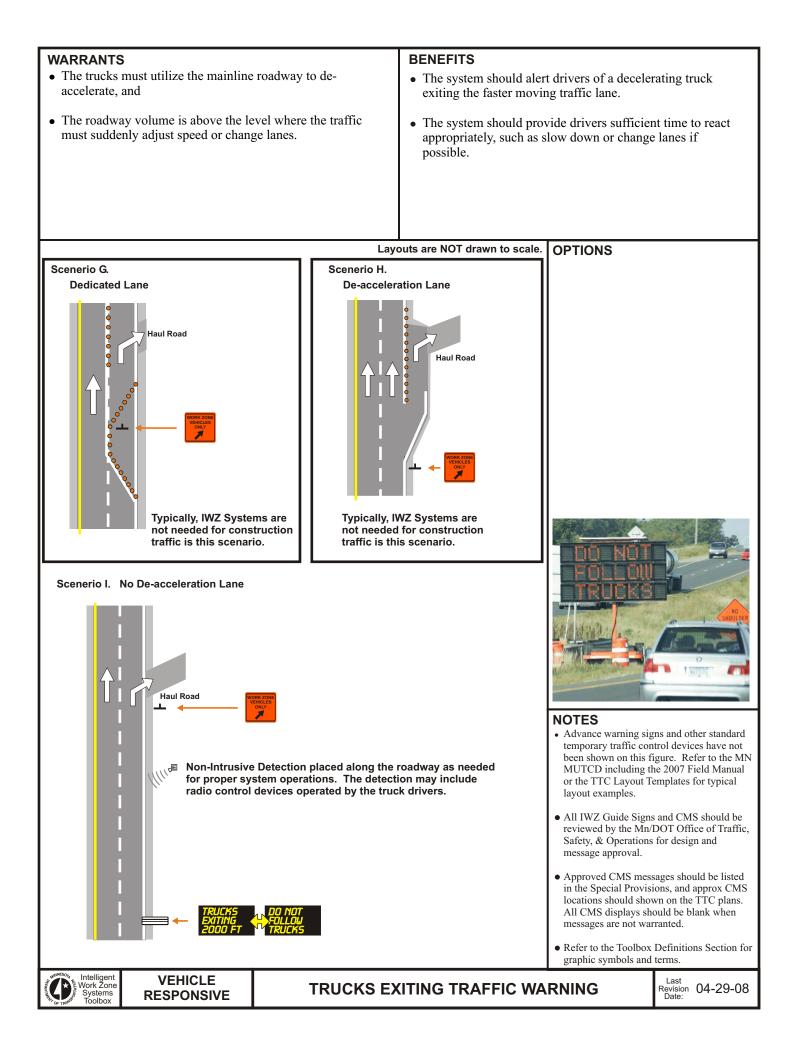
Revision 08/14/09

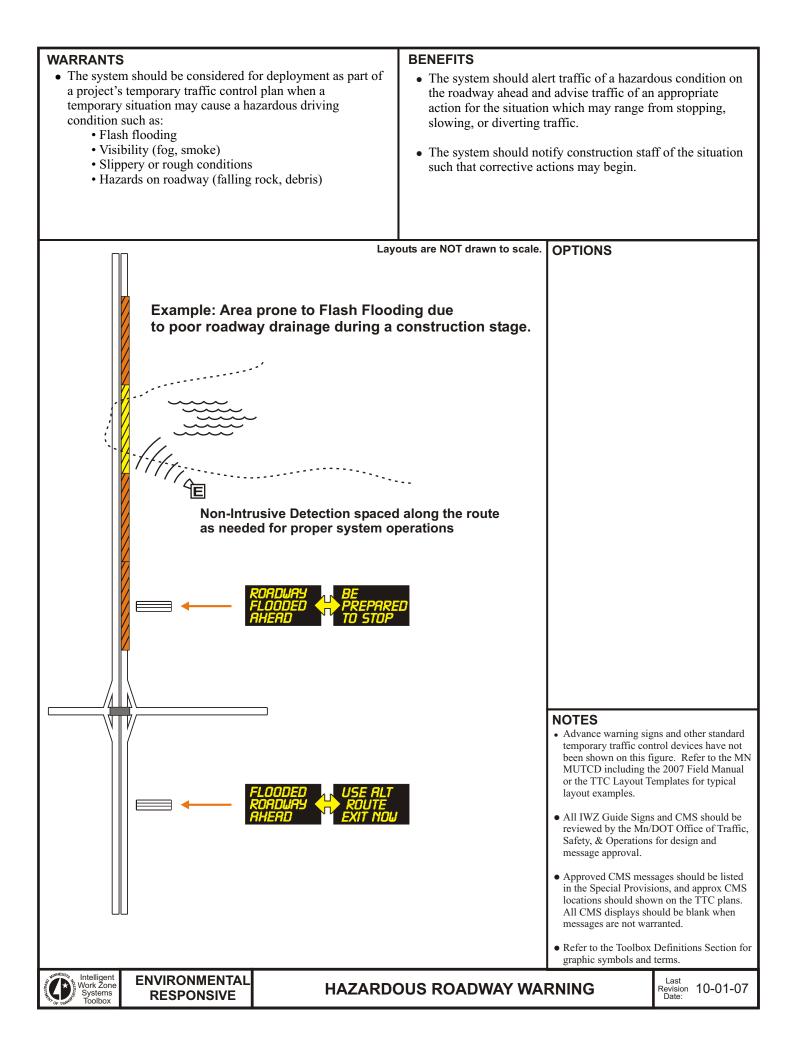


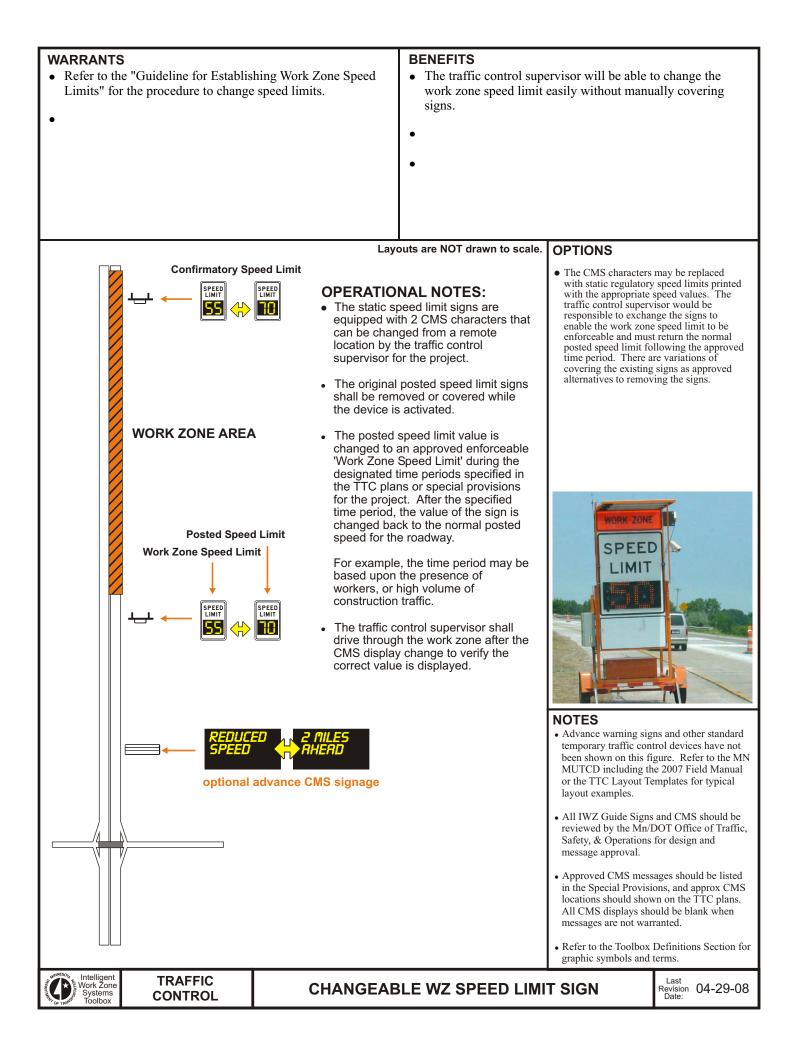












### WARRANTS

# **SHEET UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Layouts are NOT drawn to scale. **OPTIONS** 

# Various real-time informational methods may be deployed as required for the intended audience including:

- Real-time Highway Advisory Radio may broadcast real-time:
  - travel times on various routes between landmarks,
  - project staging information such as pending traffic changes,
  - alternate route information with congestion information, and/or
  - alternate route information with incident information.
- 511mn.org should be updated continually to have real-time travel information through the work zone. This information is available to the motorist via cell phone (and internet).
- Real-time information available online for the project's work zone and vicinity which could include information on current incidents, congestion, traffic control changes, travel delays/times or other traffic data that may be requested.
- Email notices with the current information could be generated based upon parameters pre-selected by subscribers, such as perdetermined time-of-day, major incidents, major congestion, etc.



### NOTES

- Advance warning signs and other standard temporary traffic control devices have not been shown on this figure. Refer to the MN MUTCD including the 2007 Field Manual or the TTC Layout Templates for typical layout examples.
- All IWZ Guide Signs and CMS should be reviewed by the Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, Safety, & Operations for design and message approval.
- Approved CMS messages should be listed in the Special Provisions, and approx CMS locations should shown on the TTC plans. All CMS displays should be blank when messages are not warranted.
- Refer to the Toolbox Definitions Section for graphic symbols and terms.

