System Operations Advisory

SOA 2017-003
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Work Zone Speed Limits on Freeways with a Posted Speed of 75 MPH

In January 2017 the Governor signed a package of legislative bills (House Bills 4423-4427) that requires Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan State Police (MSP) to increase speed limits on at least 600 miles of limited access freeway to 75 miles per hour (mph), if supported by an engineering and safety study and 85th percentile speeds.

As part of the speed limit change, work zones that are present on sections of freeway that have an existing posted speed limit of 75 mph will be affected. The new method for reducing speeds for a work zone on a segment of freeway with a 75 mph speed limit is:

The speed will be reduced from 75 mph to 70 mph leading into the work zone, then reduced to 60 mph and, when appropriate, 45 Where Workers Present (WWP), following current work zone guide lines. Typical M1000a depicts a double step down without WWP.

This method will provide statewide consistency in work zones and will not change the current expectations of motorists.

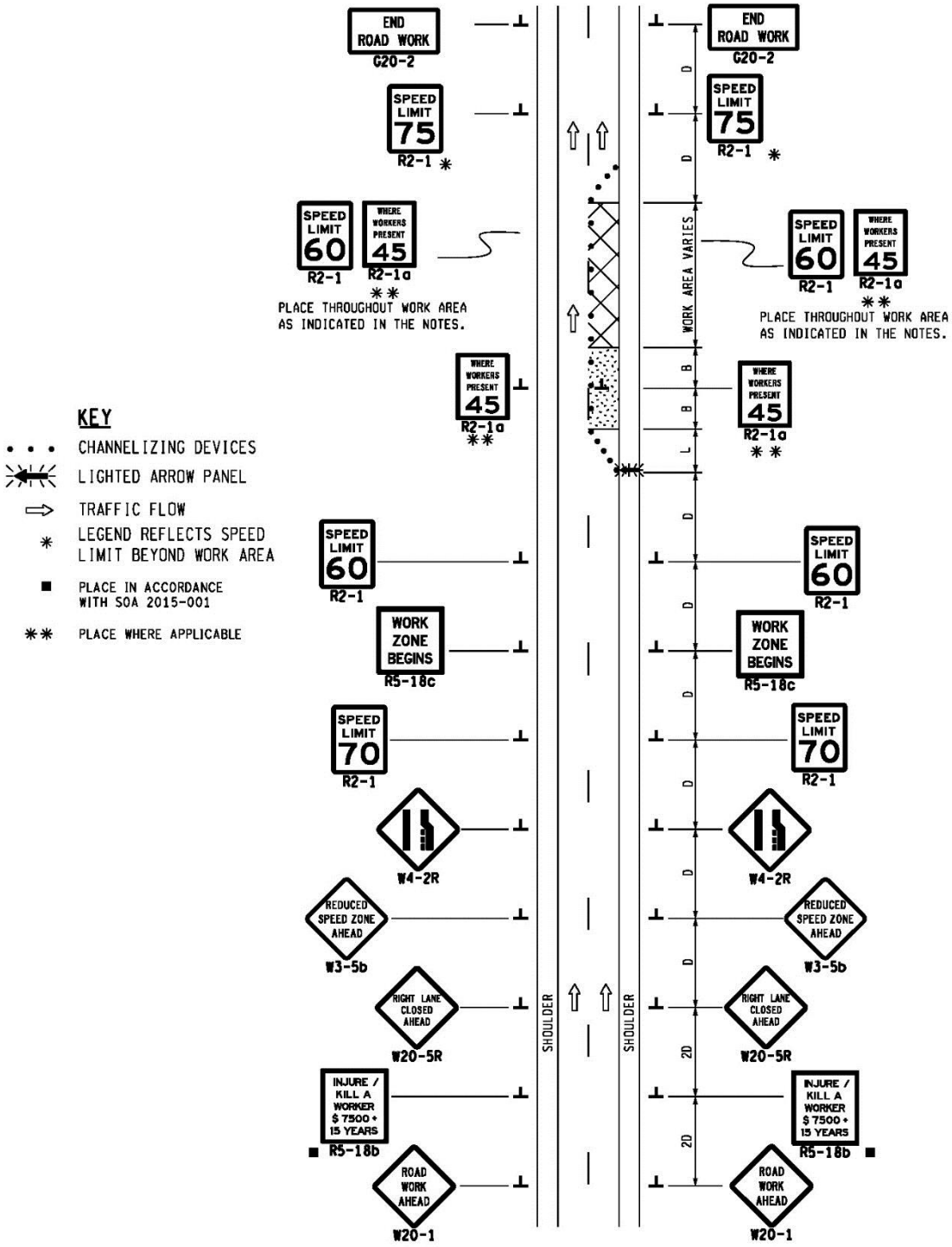
With the existing speed limit of 75 mph prior to the work zone, the length and layout of some items will be affected. Refer to the list below for the affected areas and their associated lengths.

Please use typical application M0020a for determining your taper length (L). Where L = S x W for posted speeds greater than 45 mph.

L = Minimum length of merging taper
S = Posted speed limit in mph prior to work area
W = Width of offset

D = 750 feet at 75 mph. (D" is the distance between traffic control devices).

B = 625 feet at 75 mph. (B is the guideline for the length of longitudinal buffer space).


KEY
CHANNELIZING DEVICES
LIGHTED ARROW PANEL
TRAFFIC FLOW
* LEGEND REFLECTS SPEED LIMIT BEYOND WORK AREA
■ PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOA 2015-001
** PLACE WHERE APPLICABLE
END ROAD WORK C20-2
SPEED LIMIT 75 R2-1 *
SPEED LIMIT 60 R2-1
WHERE WORKERS PRESENT 45 R2-1a **
PLACE THROUGHOUT WORK AREA AS INDICATED IN THE NOTES.
WORK AREA VARIES
D
B
L
SHOULDER
SHOULDER
WORK ZONE BEGINS R5-18c
SPEED LIMIT 70 R2-1
W4-2R
REDUCED SPEED ZONE AHEAD W3-5b
RIGHT LANE CLOSED AHEAD W20-5R
INJURE / KILL A WORKER $ 7500 + 15 YEARS R5-18b ■
ROAD WORK AHEAD W20-1
2D