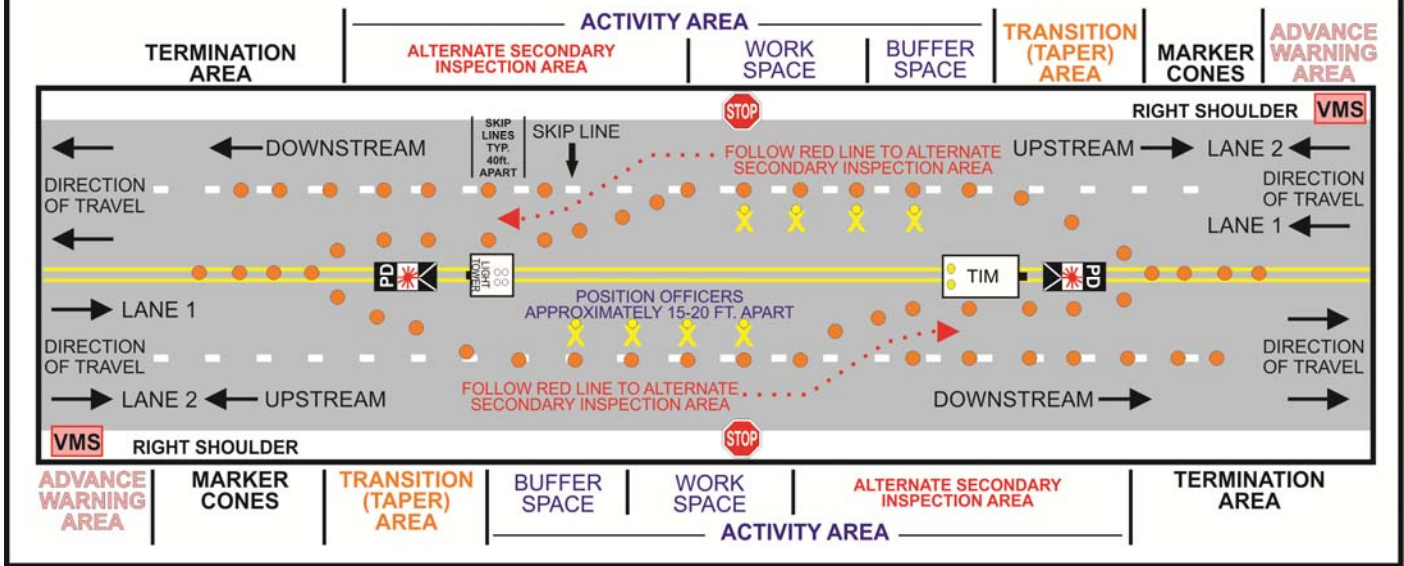


# ERIE COUNTY STOP DWI & EMERGENCY SERVICES SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT TRAFFIC CONTROL ZONE

TYPICAL FOUR LANE HIGHWAY SCENARIO – NOT TO SCALE



Sobriety Checkpoint Traffic Control Zones are planned events and therefore should be set-up with all of the traffic control devices available to mimic a full work zone such as are used for long term road construction/maintenance, in accordance with the MUTCD-Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and known best practices.

## DEFINITIONS:

- ❑ Upstream = Before the checkpoint in the direction of travel
- ❑ Downstream = Beyond the start of the checkpoint (Box) in the direction of travel
- ❑ Stopping Distance = Perception + Reaction + Braking  
(Transition/Taper and Buffer Zone distances are based on stopping distance at posted speed limits.)

## SITE SELECTION:

- ❑ Select locations where there is sufficient fixed illumination and adequate sight distance/visibility from both directions to allow for advance warning.
- ❑ Select locations with adequate space to pull a vehicle over, off the roadway, for secondary inspection (Ex.-Rest area, parking lot, etc.).
- ❑ As an alternate, set up the Secondary Inspection Area (as shown above) downstream of the Work Area (Box) if an off-road location is not available.  
Avoid using right hand shoulders as this exposes the officer and driver to traffic.
- ❑ Avoid locations on or near dangerous/blind curves; hillcrests, railroad crossings, bridges or narrow two-lane roadways.

## USE BENCHMARKS TO SPACE OUT CONES & ZONE DISTANCES:

- ❑ Typical distance between Skip-Lines = 40 ft.  
(Ex.: Transition/Taper Distance = 240 ft. / 40 ft. per Skip Line = 6 Cones)
- ❑ Typical distance between Telephone/Power Poles = 100 ft.
- ❑ Typical distance between Fire Hydrants = 500 ft.

## SIGNAGE:

- ❑ Advance Warning using (preferably) Electronic Variable Message Signs (VMS) or portable fixed message signs should be placed a minimum distance = 8 x Posted Speed; upstream of the start of the Transition/Taper Area. Sign should state: "DWI CHECK AHEAD-prepare TO STOP"
- ❑ Stationary stop signs should be placed at the furthest point/officer downstream in the checkpoint (before Secondary Inspection and Termination areas).
  - ❑ If using just one (1) stop sign in each direction of travel, the sign should be placed on the right hand shoulder of the road in the direction of travel to avoid the last downstream officer blocking visibility of the sign, or the sign blocking the visibility of the officer.
  - ❑ If using two (2) stop signs in each direction of travel, one (1) sign should be placed on the right hand shoulder of the road in the direction of travel; and the other sign should be placed at the edge of the box cone line just past the last downstream officer.



## VEHICLE POSITIONING:

- ❑ Where space permits, position Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Trailer and Mobile Light Tower or other large vehicle inside Buffer area to act as a blocker should there be a work zone intrusion.
- ❑ Where space permits, position one (1) police vehicle inside the Transition/Taper Area at each end of the Sobriety Checkpoint Traffic Control Zone, upstream of the Buffer and Work Space in each direction of travel.
- ❑ Vehicle lighting should be reduced to rear flashing amber lights only (arrow stick) and forward facing headlights/spotlights should be turned off.
- ❑ Position all remaining police or other vehicles:
  - ❑ Inside the Transition/Taper and/or Buffer Areas at each end of the Sobriety Checkpoint Zone, upstream of the Box in each direction of travel. Turn off all emergency lighting and forward facing headlights.
  - ❑ Inside the Termination Area or downstream of the Alternate Secondary Inspection Area. Do not place vehicles on the opposing shoulder of the roadway, removing an escape route for errant drivers.
  - ❑ Off-site

## PERSONAL SAFETY MEASURES:

- ❑ Identify and document an Incident Commander and Safety Officer; share information with all participants. Safety Officer and/or Spotter should be equipped with a portable air horn to alert personnel of an impending work zone intrusion.
- ❑ All personnel setting up and working within the Sobriety Checkpoint Traffic Control Zone must wear retro-reflective vest, jacket or apparel at all times regardless of daylight. Retro-reflective hat and gloves enhance personal visibility.
- ❑ All personnel setting up and working within the Sobriety Checkpoint Traffic Control Zone should face traffic at all times and not turn their back to traffic.
- ❑ All officers should use retro-reflective stop paddles or flashlights with yellow/green translucent cone attachments, preferably a style that allows the clear flashlight to shine through the end of the cone for use during driver interviews. The use of standard flashlights, without translucent cones attached, is not recommended as approaching drivers cannot decipher what rapid hand/flashlight motions are instructing them to do.
  - ❑ *To Motion Traffic Towards You:* Officers should stand facing traffic (perpendicular to the lane of travel), make eye contact with the approaching driver; bend their arm at the elbow, and move the flashlight/cone down and up towards themselves in a slow motion to signal that you want the vehicle to move towards you.
  - ❑ *To Stop Traffic:* Officers should stand facing traffic (perpendicular to the lane of travel), make eye contact with the approaching driver; bend their arm at the elbow and hold the palm of their hand straight up and out; or extend their arm and hold flashlight/cone straight out away from their body (or at a downward 45° angle), perpendicular to the roadway until the approaching vehicle stops.



# Erie County Sobriety Checkpoint **TRAFFIC CONTROL ZONE SET-UP & SAFETY WORKSHEET**

**ERIE COUNTY STOP DWI & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

<b>CONE &amp; DISTANCE CALCULATOR</b>	<b>POSTED SPEED</b>					
	<b>30</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>55</b>	
	DISTANCE	CONES	DISTANCE	CONES	DISTANCE	CONES
<b>ADVANCE WARNING</b> (Distance to place VMS upstream of start of taper)	240 ft.	-	360 ft.	-	660 ft.	-
<b>MARKERS:</b> Marker cones prior to start of taper	60 ft.	3	60 ft.	3	60 ft.	3
<b>TRANSITION/TAPER:</b> Space required to move traffic into designated lane	240 ft.	6	320 ft.	8	640 ft.	16
<b>BUFFER:</b> Space to allow vehicle to stop should there be a checkpoint zone intrusion	200 ft.	5	360 ft.	9	480 ft.	12
<b>WORK AREA (BOX):</b> Work space for officers conducting initial interviews (Allow 15-20ft. per officer/vehicle)	<b>2 OFFICERS</b>		<b>4 OFFICERS</b>		<b>6 OFFICERS</b>	
	40 ft.	2	80 ft.	4	120 ft.	6
+ Cones to define lateral Box border	---	3	---	3	---	3
<b>SECONDARY INSPECTION AREA:</b> (Unless moving vehicles off roadway [parking lot] for secondary inspection)	80 ft.	4	80 ft.	4	80 ft.	4
<b>TERMINATION AREA:</b> (Taper cones back towards center line to return traffic to both lanes of travel)	120 ft.	3	120 ft.	3	120 ft.	3
<b>SUB-TOTALS</b> (Circle and Total all distances and cone counts as appropriate based on posted speed and number of officers working in the Box)						
<b>Cones x 2</b> (For both directions)	-	x2	-	x2	-	x2
<b>TOTALS</b>						

SITE SELECTION & SET-UP NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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