



City Council Report

Date: December 4, 2017
To: City Council
Through: Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: RJ Zeder, Transportation Department Director
Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: Renaming of the Traffic Barricade Manual and Adoption of a new Temporary Traffic Control Manual (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Seek approval for the renaming of the Traffic Barricade Manual to Temporary Traffic Control Manual in Title 10, Section 10 "Temporary Traffic Control" of the Mesa City Code.
2. Seek adoption for the adoption of a new Temporary Traffic Control Manual for the City of Mesa.

Background

Mesa City Code (City Code) Section 10-10-1 calls for developing, publishing, and revising a manual to establish temporary traffic control measures for restrictions of City transportation facilities in conjunction with any work, construction, maintenance, or other use of City rights-of-way (ROW) or easements. Historically, Mesa has adopted the City of Phoenix Traffic Barricade Manual (TBM) with a Mesa specific amendment. This adoption has been done by City Council Resolution. Mesa's current TBM consists of the 2007 Phoenix TBM with a 2011 Mesa Supplement.

Discussion

While working on the update of the 2011 Mesa Supplement to the 2007 Phoenix TBM, the decision was made to prepare a standalone manual that augments the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) rather than referring to the Phoenix TBM. As part of this effort, a name change is also proposed.

The purpose of the name change from Traffic Barricade Manual to Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) Manual is as follows:

- Clearly distinguish the new manual from the Phoenix TBM
- Be inclusive of everything that involves TTC, not just barricades

The reasons for developing a standalone TTC manual are:

- Ease of application and less confusion for anybody working within City ROW/easements or designing TTC plans for Mesa. They will only have to refer to the Mesa TTC Manual and the MUTCD whereas currently, the Phoenix TBM, Mesa Supplement, and MUTCD are necessary to develop a compliant design.
- Independence and convenience for staff. The TTC Manual can be modified as needed to incorporate best practices, advances in the industry, or changes in procedures.

The proposed Mesa TTC Manual provides more detailed guidance and examples tailored to urban work zones than the national MUTCD. Changes from the current TBM are the inclusion of direction on pedestrian accommodations and transit stops, special event guidelines, as well as the requirement for plan designers and a supervisor to be certified in TTC standards through a nationally recognized certification program.

Attachment A shows the changes that will be required in City Code Chapter 10 Sections 10.1 through 10.3 if the new name is adopted. The update of City Code will be accomplished via ordinance. Attachment B is the draft version of the new Mesa TTC Manual, which will be adopted via resolution and ordinance.

Alternatives

Doing nothing or not adopting the new Mesa TTC Manual are alternatives that are not recommended since the current TBM is outdated.

Keeping the current name as is but adopt the new manual. This alternative is not recommended because of the desire to emphasize that this is a completely new document that no further relies on the Phoenix TBM.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal impact is estimated to be minimal consisting of staff time to update City web pages with the new manual and printing out hard copies for distribution. Total implementation cost is estimated not to exceed \$5,000 and is included in Traffic Engineering's existing budget, funded with Highway User Revenue Funds.

Coordinated With

The City attorney's office reviewed, provided input, and approved the proposed code changes. Other City departments and groups involved in construction activities (e.g., Engineering, Field Operations) reviewed the TTC Manual and their comments have been incorporated. The attached draft of the manual has also been submitted to the local chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), which represents the road safety, traffic safety, and highway safety industry. The Transportation Advisory Board has reviewed and approved staff's recommendations at their May 16, 2017 meeting. This was also discussed at the Development Advisory Forum held on November 8, 2017 and the proposed TTC Manual was accepted without comments.