

Transportation Improvement FAQs

Not every project or jurisdiction uses the same methods or practices listed below. Keep in mind that information and schedules can change, especially during the construction phase.

“*News releases and electronic message boards often apprise the public of the upcoming construction.*”

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are the general phases of a transportation improvement project?*

Upon approval of the plan and funding, construction work typically proceeds as follows:

- Utilities, which may include sewer, water, electric, gas, phone and cable/internet
- Road surface and subsurface preparations and grading
- Curbs, sidewalks, handicap ramps and bus pullouts
- Paving and striping
- Landscaping, fixtures, signage, etc.

Note: Not every project includes every item and some utility work may be interspersed up to one year prior to or included in the main construction package.

2. *Who is responsible for the project regarding decisions, timelines, etc.?*

A project manager is assigned at the beginning of the project. This person's contact information will be indicated on the initial project notification announcement that each business receives at the start of the project.

3. *How far in advance of actual construction will the businesses be notified?*

Businesses will be notified by mailings from the municipalities and through outreach efforts by the MainStreet Business Assistance Program. Prior to the beginning of construction, a Pre-Construction Open House will be held with the contractor to learn about the project's final schedule, phasing and to answer questions from the public. News releases and electronic message boards also often apprise the public of the upcoming construction.

4. *What types of circumstances can cause delays in the construction?*

Weather, especially rain and temperature requirements for paving; poor soil conditions; unanticipated issues with existing utilities; archaeological discoveries; necessary field design modification, material delays, required permitting and inspections.

5. *Will there be clear ingress/egress (entrance/exit) for my business throughout the construction period?*

Yes, clear ingress/egress to businesses should be maintained at all times.

6. *How do businesses receive information on transportation improvement projects?*

There are a number of ways businesses receive information before and during a construction project.

- MainStreet business outreach liaisons make visits to businesses in the construction zones to advise of updates and answer questions. You may call your MainStreet liaison or the MainStreet office for the latest project information.
- Major activities and milestones requiring a news release are sent to newspapers and posted on the project's website.
- Periodic mailings are sent to businesses in the construction zones. Some jurisdictions are moving toward a "greener" electronic approach with information distributed via email, website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Contractors and utility personnel will occasionally distribute fliers when construction tasks will affect a business specifically.

7. *Why are there lane closures?*

Lanes are generally closed for utility work, grading, road milling, paving and striping. Typically, work is done on all lanes traveling in one direction, requiring that two-way traffic be shifted to one side, with only a single lane traveling in each direction. In rare instances, it may be more prudent to restrict travel to one direction, providing detours for traffic flow in the opposite direction.

8. *Do the jurisdictions or the RTA provide money to businesses for advertising campaigns or compensation for lost sales?*

No. However, the RTA does offer the MainStreet Business Assistance Program to any of the businesses along an RTA project that wish to use the services at no cost.

9. *Why are left turns prohibited in many areas of the construction?*

The main reason is that left-hand turns in construction zones can be dangerous. Furthermore, where there are no turning bays, left-hand turns can result in significant traffic delays.

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10. Will my garbage collection be interrupted?

If so, what kind of notice can I expect?

Garbage collection is typically not interrupted. You will be informed of many schedule changes or changes to pickup locations in advance.

11. Will my mail delivery service be interrupted or my mailbox moved? If so, what kind of notice can I expect?

Mail delivery will not be interrupted. You will be informed well in advance if your mailbox needs to be relocated.

12. Will there be any water shutoffs? If so, what kind of notice can I expect?

Interruptions to water service (although unavoidable in some cases) are kept to an absolute minimum and usually scheduled as night work to minimize disruption. In the event that your water must be shut off for a brief period, you will typically be given a 48-hour notice.

13. Will there be any interruption in my electrical, phone and Internet service? If so, what kind of notice can I expect?

Interruptions to these services (although unavoidable in some cases) are kept to an absolute minimum and where possible, scheduled as night work. In the event that your service must be interrupted for a brief period, you will typically be given a 48-hour notice.

14. Why isn't more work done at night or during off-times so that normal business hours are not impacted?

The primary reason is budgetary, although some jurisdictions have nighttime noise ordinances that limit work, especially near residential areas. Night work is done at a premium and would require greater public funding. Some projects might involve selective and specific application of night work when circumstances dictate. Provisions for this limited, as-needed use are typically included in the budget and must be diligently applied within the project's financial constraints.

15. How are speed limits and corresponding fines imposed in a construction area? What are the fines and enforcement policies within construction areas?

Local jurisdictions follow the standards outlined in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* for implementing speed control and lane restrictions within construction areas. These guidelines ensure the safety of drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians and workers. Speed limits are strictly enforced for the safety of construction workers, pedestrians and motor vehicle traffic. The fine for speeding in a construction zone is generally double the normal fine.

16. What are the policies regarding business access signs and can individual business names be placed on the signs?

Access to businesses is maintained throughout the project. Traffic control plan provisions typically provide standard blue business access signs at key locations alerting travelers to business ingress/egress. Names are not featured on business access signs.

17. Will I be able to post signs and banners outside my business?

All banners and A-frames are subject to jurisdictional sign code guidelines. Some jurisdictions will temporarily allow banners and signs on the business or property itself, out of the path of construction vehicles, away from pedestrian, vehicular traffic and jurisdictional right-of-way during construction.