

Glossary of Terms

Below are helpful terms associated with basic traffic and work zones.

Remember to always double-check with your State or agency for standards, specifications, and definitions.

Terms

- **Advisory Speed:**
 - The advisory speed is the maximum recommended travel speed through a curve or hazardous area.
- **Daytime:**
 - Daytime in a work zone is defined as the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.
- **Detour:**
 - A detour is defined as the redirection of traffic onto another roadway to bypass a temporary traffic control zone.
- **Diversion:**
 - A diversion is defined as the redirection of traffic onto a temporary roadway, usually adjacent to the permanent roadway and within limits of the right-of-way.
- **Driver:**
 - A driver is any person who is in actual physical control of a vehicle on the highway; is exercising control of vehicle; or is steering vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.
- **Encroach:**
 - To encroach is to advance beyond proper, original, or customary limits.
- **High Speed Roadway:**
 - A high speed roadway is a highway with a posted speed limit of a value determined by agency policy. For example, your State may determine that

a highway with a posted speed of 50, 55, or 60 miles per hour or more is to be considered a high speed roadway.

- **Intermediate Work:**

- Intermediate work occupies a location more than one daylight period up to 3 days, or nighttime work lasting more than 1 hour.

- **Lane Shift:**

- A lane shift is the redirection of traffic onto a different section of the permanent pavement.

- **Long Term Work:**

- Long term stationary is work that occupies a location for more than 3 days.

- **Marked Highway:**

- A marked highway is a highway where the roadway is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

- **Mobile Work:**

- Mobile work moves intermittently or continuously.

- **Nighttime:**

- Nighttime is defined by your State or agency. For example, in some States/agencies, nighttime may be defined as the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

- **Regulatory Speed:**

- The regulatory speed is the maximum permitted travel speed in an area for normal open roadway conditions, as indicated by speed limit signs.

- **Road Work:**

- Road work is defined as all operations by States, counties, municipalities, contractors, utilities, and other authorized parties conducted in or adjacent to the roadway.

- **Roadway:**
 - A roadway is any portion of highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic—excluding berm or shoulder. The term roadway shall be interpreted to include highways, streets, and roads.
- **Rural:**
 - Rural areas have the characteristics of country, farming, or agriculture.
- **Short Duration:**
 - Short duration work occupies the location for up to one hour.
- **Short Term:**
 - Short term work is daytime work that occupies a location for more than 1 hour within a single daylight period.
- **Traverse:**
 - Traverse means to travel across, through, or over an area.
- **Urban:**
 - Urban areas have the characteristics of a city or town.