



**Federal Highway Administration, USDOT**

# **The Final Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility**

**Updates to 23 CFR Section 630, Subpart J**

*Presented by*

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*Talking Operations Seminar – February 17, 2005*

# Agenda

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- What is the “final rule”?
- Why update the “final rule”?
- Overview of the “final rule”
- Influence on project delivery





# What is the Final Rule?

# “FINAL RULE”

- **What is the “final rule”?....wow, now that’s a good question!**
- **Everything the Federal Government funds and oversees has rules and regulations and these are documented in the Code of Federal Regulations manual (CFR)**
- **Obviously, highways are an integral part of the operation of our transportation infrastructure and thus have Federal moneys allocated for highway construction**



# “FINAL RULE”

- The Code of Federal Regulations is divided into 50 areas or “Titles”

Below are some examples

- Title 3- The President
- Title 12- Banking
- **Title 23- Highways**
- Title 34- Education
- Title 49- Transportation



# “FINAL RULE”

- **Title 23- Highways-** Has 3 Chapters
- **Chapter 1- Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation**
- **Chapter 2- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Highway Admin**
- **Chapter 3- National Highway Traffic Safety, DOT**



# “FINAL RULE”

- **Title 23- Highways: Chapter 1- Federal Highway Administration** is our focus
- Chapter 1 has 11 “Subchapters” labelled A thru K
  - **SubChapter G-** is the location for “Engineering and Traffic Operations “
    - **Part 630** is the location for “PreConstruction Procedures”
      - **SubPart J** is the location for “Traffic Safety in Highway and Street Workzones”
- Hence, the reference **23 CFR Part 630, Subpart J**





# Why Update the Final Rule?

# Why Update the WZ Rule

- Legislative requirement
  - Congress required the FHWA to review current work zone problems and update the regulation to:

*“Better reflect current needs for improved safety and to minimize disruptions to traffic during the construction of highway projects”*

- So, we were told to update the regulation, but .....
- We also believe that it makes good sense to update it

# Why Update the WZ Rule

## Influencing Factors:

- **Growing traffic volumes and congestion**
  - Vehicle travel up, but very little growth in road miles
- **Our highways are approaching middle age**
  - More construction and repair is needed, which means more work zones
- **More work is done under traffic**
  - Compressed contractor schedules
  - Increasing night work
- **Work zone safety continues to be a concern**
  - Over 41,000 injuries and 1028 fatalities in 2003
- **Travelers are not happy with work zones**
  - Unexpected road conditions and inconsistency cause traveler frustration



# Overview of Final Rule

# Provisions – In a Nutshell



# Overview of the Final Rule

## Goals:

- **Expand thinking beyond the actual “Project” itself**
  - Focus efforts to address Corridor, Network, and Regional issues while planning and designing road projects
- **Expand WZ management beyond “traffic safety and control”**
  - Address mobility in addition to safety
  - Facilitate customer-focused project development through comprehensive consideration of work zone impacts
  - Address current day issues with “operations and management” and “public information”
- **Advocate innovative thinking in “Project” Planning, Design, and Management so as to consider alternative/innovative design, construction, contracting and traffic management strategies**

# Overview of the Final Rule

## Specific Focus Areas:

- Implement an Agency developed Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy
- Identify “Significant Projects” early and PLAN for their design, construction, contracting and traffic management strategies
- Communicate more effectively with the public and other stakeholders
- Emphasize work zone focused training
- Emphasize performance monitoring and assessment

- **State implemented WZ safety and mobility policy**
  - *Systematic consideration and management of WZ impacts throughout project development and implementation based on State criteria*
  - *Sensitive to varying project characteristics and expected WZ impacts*
  - *Multi-disciplinary team approach*



# *The Policy....How Do We Do it?*

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**Develop a Project Management Team**

**(Planning/Pre-Construction/Construction/  
Contract Delivery/  
Operations/Maintenance/FHWA)**

# ***NCDOT Work Zone Safety and Mobility “Policy”***

## **Goals**

- **Develop an ‘AGENCY’ Awareness of the Importance of the “Systems Engineering” Approach to Work Zone Planning**
- **Establish a Process to Measure the Work Zone “Impacts” on “Significant Projects” Both Within and outside of the Project Limits**
- **Create a Process to Describe How to Identify “Significant Projects”**

# Standard Processes/Procedures to support the Policy

- **Standard processes / procedures to**
  - *Assess and manage WZ impacts*
  - *Require training for personnel*
  - *Use crash and operational data for process / procedural improvement*
  - *Conduct bi-annual performance reviews*

# Project-Level Procedures

- Identify “Significant” projects
- Develop Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) for the “Significant” projects
- Include appropriate TMP provisions in the PS&Es
- Implement and monitor TMPs for “Significant” Projects
- Assess Performance for “Significant” Projects

# Overview of Final Rule

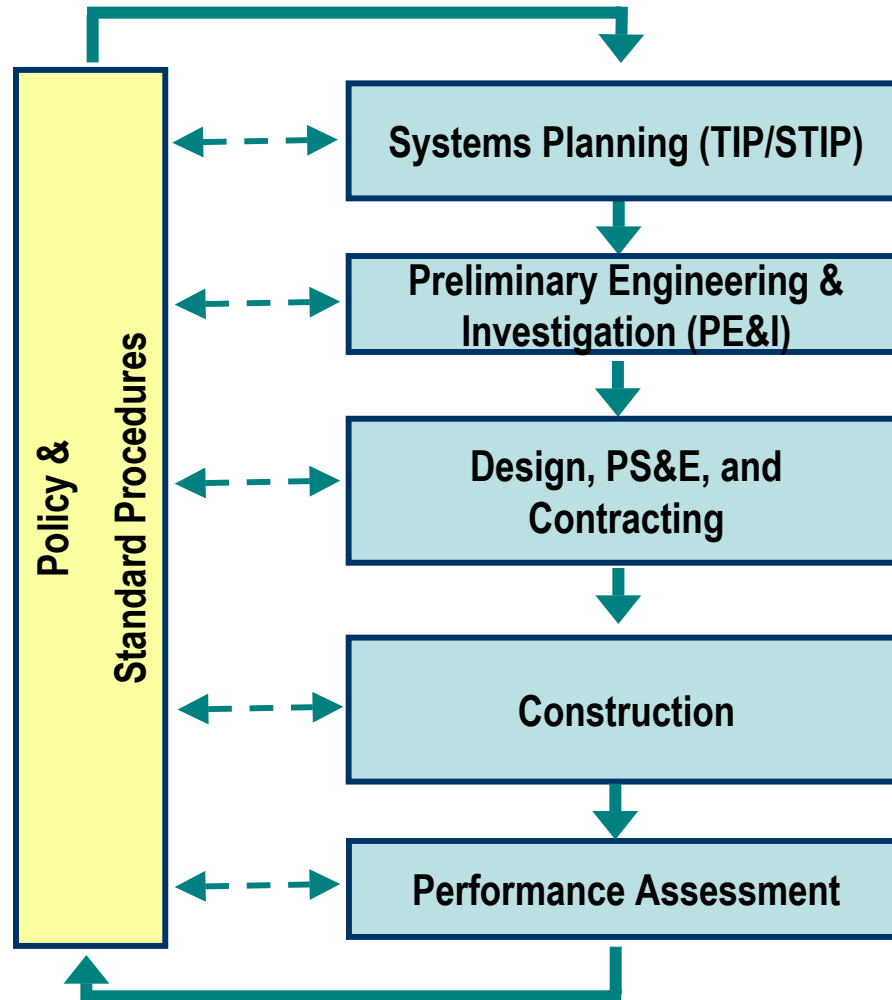
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- **Published September 9, 2004**
- **All States to be in full compliance by October 12, 2007**
- **North Carolina is recognized as a “lead state” and has volunteered to be an early implementer**
- **North Carolina is shooting for full implementation by October 2006**

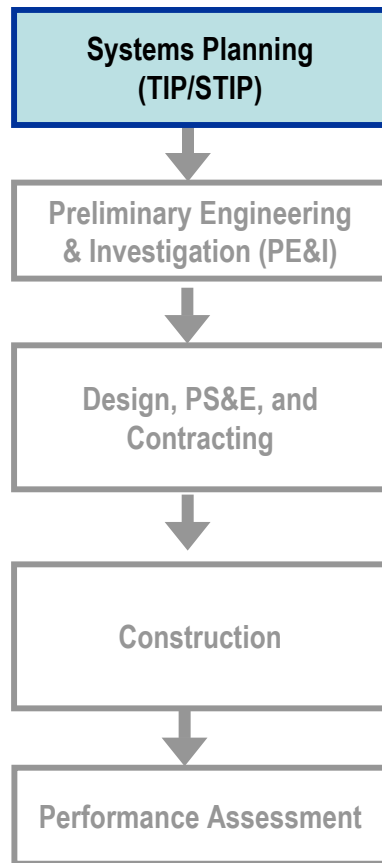


# Influence on Project Delivery

# Project Delivery Cycle

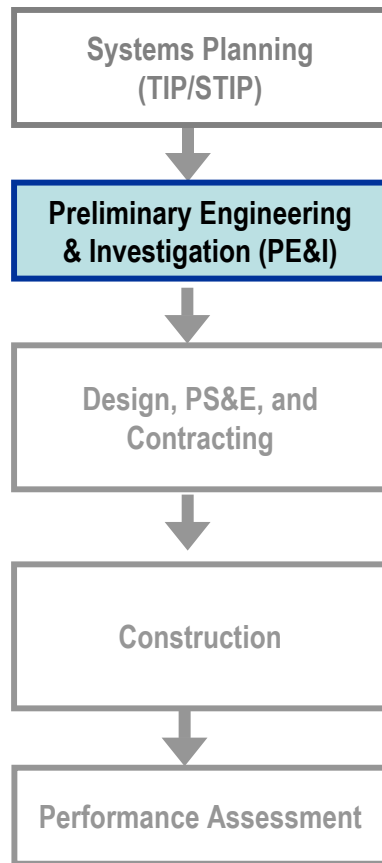


# Systems Planning (TIP/STIP)



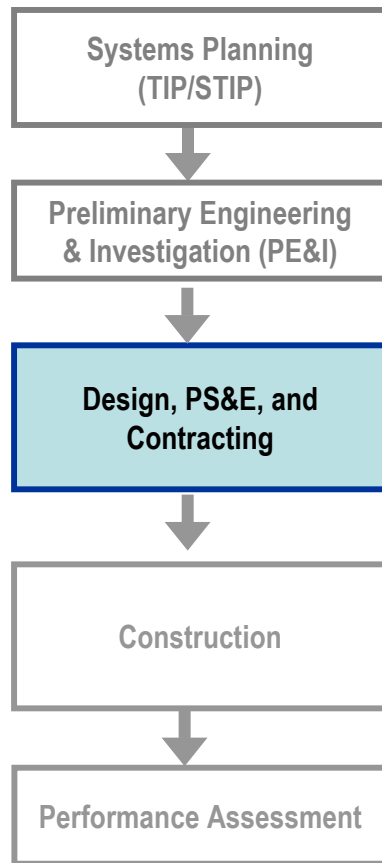
- Identify projects expected to cause “significant work zone impacts” early in the project development process

# Preliminary Eng. / Investigation (PE&I)



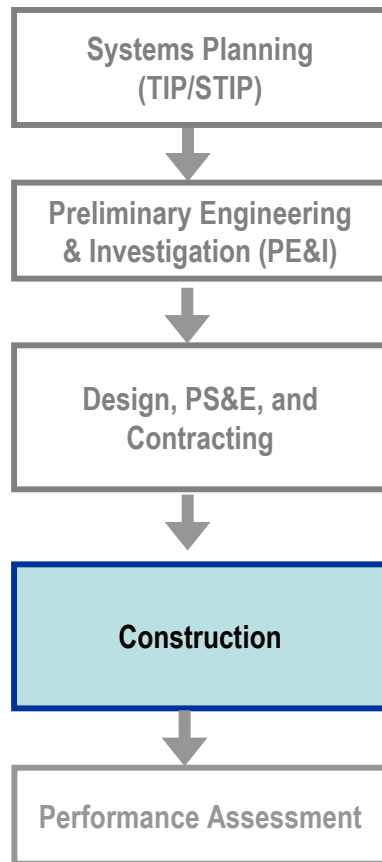
- Identify potential WZ impacts
- Identify potential transportation management strategies
- Identify other coordination issues

# Design, PS&E, and Contracting



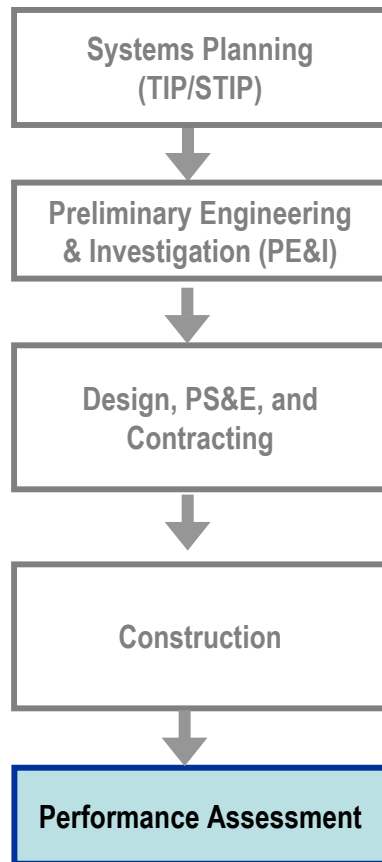
- **Assess WZ impacts (progressively and comprehensively)**
  - *Address alternative design, construction, contracting, and management strategies in the assessment*
- **Develop appropriate TMP**
- **Include appropriate TMP items in PS&E**

# Construction



- **Implement TMP requirements**
- **Monitor safety and mobility**
  - *Use field observations, crash data, and operational information to manage impacts*
- **Consult with appropriate stakeholders**
- **Review random projects as appropriate**

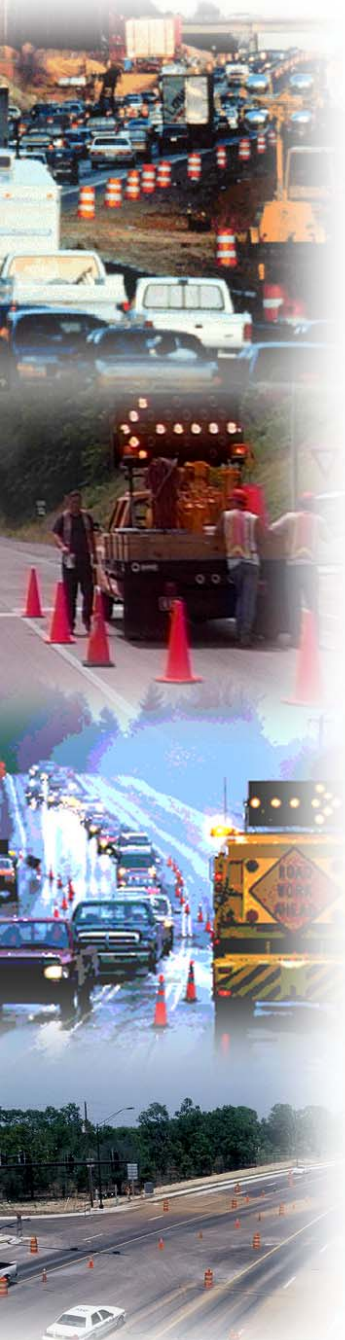
# Performance Assessment



- **Analyze crash and operational data from multiple projects**
  - *Towards improving processes and procedures*
- **Maintain data and information resources to support improvements**
- **Conduct bi-annual process reviews**
  - *WZ data analysis and/or project reviews*
  - *Improve WZ processes and procedures, data and information resources, and training programs*

# In Summary

- Advance WZ considerations as early as practical
- A State driven approach – implement an “Agency” Work Zone and Mobility Policy to consider and manage WZ impacts of “Significant Projects”
- Develop and implement State-level procedures for systematic consideration and management of Project impacts for “Significant Projects”
- Manage the WZ impacts of projects by developing and implementing TMPs appropriate to the project
- Monitor the performance of “Significant Projects” during implementation and make changes to TMP, if necessary
- Analyze post-construction data across multiple projects to improve policy, practices, processes and procedures



## Questions/Comments on

# The Final Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility

# Final Rule Web Site

[http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final\\_rule.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule.htm)

- **This site will be continuously updated as new final rule information becomes available**
- **Content planned:**
  - *FAQs*
  - *Fact Sheets*
  - *Guidance Documents*
  - *Training Opportunities*
  - *Also hope to add Sample Templates for developing required plans*