State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

California State Transportation Agency

Memorandum

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To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DIVISION CHIEFS, PROJECT DELIVERY
DIVISION CHIEF, MAINTENANCE

Date: September 18, 2014

File: Division of Traffic Operations

From: S. SEAN NOZZARI, Acting Chief
Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: **IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTABLE TRANSVERSE RUMBLE STRIPS**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has developed a new Standard Special Provision (SSP), 12-3.19 "Portable Transverse Rumble Strips," and a Revised 2010 Standard Plan (RSP) T13 sheet. The use of portable transverse rumble strips is required for all construction, maintenance, and encroachment permits flagging operations on two-lane conventional highways except as noted in Note 14 of RSP T13. This memorandum provides guidance regarding the implementation of the SSP and RSP.

Background

The Caltrans Construction Partnering Steering Committee's Work Zone Safety Task Group and the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan's Challenge Area 14 (SHSP CA#14-Enhance Work Zone Safety) initiated the effort to evaluate the effectiveness of using transverse portable rumble strips when flaggers are present within work zones to reduce speeds and improve worker safety. The evaluation resulted in a new SSP and RSP to address the use of portable transverse rumble strips in conjunction with flagging operations on two-lane conventional highways. This SSP and RSP will help ensure that all roadways in California are operated uniformly and consistently; thereby, improving safety of workers and all road users traveling through the work zone.

Implementation

As indicated by Note 14 on RSP T13, rumble strips are not required if any one of the following conditions is satisfied:

A. Work duration occupies a location for four hours or less

B. Posted speed limit is below 45 MPH

C. Work is for an emergency response

D. Work zone is in snow or icy weather conditions

Based on field experience, the minimum 4-hour work window was chosen as a balance between the enhancements to public and worker safety and the additional exposure experienced by workers installing the temporary portable rumble strips.

In the future, the use of the portable transverse rumble strips and the related application criteria will be evaluated in cooperation with the Divisions of Maintenance and Construction.

District Division of Maintenance staff may request deviation from the RSP per Section 8.05 "Changing Chapter Standards" in the Maintenance Manual.

For Construction and Encroachment Permits projects, deviations may be requested when justified and approved, on a case by case basis, in writing by the Deputy District Director (DDD) of Traffic Operations or designee.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Duper Tong, Office of Traffic Engineering, at (916) 654-5176, or e-mail at <duper.tong@dot.ca.gov>

c: Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations
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