

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-28 **Effective:** July 27, 2009

Subject: Road Closures for Parades, Festivals, or Other Events

References: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 56-5-710. Powers of local authorities.
S.C. Code of Laws, Section 56-5-930. Placing and maintaining traffic-control devices on State highways.
Others – S.C. Code of Laws, Sections 57-7-10, 56-5-3160, 56-5-3170, 56-5-615, 56-5-910, 56-5-2540, 56-5-3860, 56-5-3900, and 56-4-4450.

Purpose: Provide Guidance for Road Closures for Public Events

This Directive Applies to: Maintenance and Traffic Engineering

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has no objections to municipalities, county governments, state government, or others endorsed by a municipality, county, or state government wishing to hold parades, festivals, or other events that may involve the temporary closing of one or more roads in the state system, provided however, that the parades, festivals, or other events are held in a safe and orderly manner and that motorist and pedestrian safety, as well as adequate traffic movement and accessibility for persons with disabilities, is maintained. The following procedures shall be required for such temporary state roadway closures:

1. All requests shall be submitted to the district engineering administrator (DEA), who shall be responsible for signing all letters addressing requests for temporary road closures in conjunction with parades, festivals, or other events within the district. If the event affects multiple districts, the request shall be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Operations to coordinate and respond on a statewide perspective.
2. The requests shall be in writing and, if not submitted by a local authority, shall include the local authority's permit or written authorization for the event.
3. All SCDOT responses to requests for such temporary road closures shall clearly state the following:
 - a. Local or other law enforcement agencies are responsible for and shall provide all necessary traffic control when state roadways are temporarily closed, to include adequate detours for the safe and efficient movement of the traveling public around the closed area. The traveling public expects state routes to be open and free of delay. Therefore, adequate signs and traffic control devices shall be used to clearly mark the area to minimize inconvenience to through traffic. SCDOT is not responsible for traffic control or notification of local or other law enforcement for these events.

- b. The local authority shall be responsible to ensure that all traffic control devices, utilized by the local or other law enforcement agencies for the parades, festivals, or other events, shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), latest edition.
 - c. Pavement markings are not allowed unless specifically approved by SCDOT.
 - d. No equipment or structures that would damage the pavement shall be located on the roadway surface, including but not limited to, petroleum products, such as hydraulic fluid, diesel fuel, gasoline, etc., mechanical stabilizers, and anchoring systems.
 - e. SCDOT does not recommend parades, festivals, or other events crossing a railroad track. However, if the parade, festival, or other event unavoidably uses a state roadway that crosses a railroad line, the requester and/or local authority is responsible for contacting the railroad company to advise of the event and coordinating any needed precautions to ensure the public's safety.
 - f. SCDOT shall not be held responsible for any personal and/or property damage or injury incident to or arising from these events.
 - g. Access to and the use of curb ramps and other facilities for any person(s) with disabilities shall not be blocked.
4. Temporary state roadway closures for parades, festivals, and other events are considered on a case-by-case basis using SCDOT engineering judgment.
5. Copies of the letter responding to the request for temporary state road closure shall be sent by the DEA or Chief Engineer for Operations to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the SCDOT resident maintenance engineer.

Submitted by: David B. Cook
Acting Director of Maintenance

Recommended by: James J. Feda, Jr.
Acting Chief Engineer for Operations

Approved: Christy A. Hall
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Lead: Director of Maintenance

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