

ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS

The appropriate traffic control requirements are determined by the characteristics of the roadway and the traffic conditions where the work is to be conducted.

ROADWAY TYPES

Two-Lane Two-Way – A typical secondary or primary road with two opposing travel lanes. These roads occur in rural and urban areas. Most of these roads have pavement markings but low volume roadways may not. The travel lanes of a two-lane two-way road are typically separated by double yellow center lines, with or without passing zones, and supplemented with bi-directional yellow retroreflective pavement markers, however, some two-lane two-way roads may be separated by a paved or grassed earth median. The shoulder areas of these roads may be grassed earth, paved or have curb and gutter. Two-lane two-way roads may be low speed roads with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less, intermediate speed roads with posted speed limits of 40 mph to 50 mph or high speed roads with posted speed limits of 55 mph.

Multilane – A typical secondary or primary roads with three or more travel lanes. These roads occur in rural and urban areas. The opposing travel lanes may be separated by double yellow center lines, paved medians, raised concrete islands, concrete median barrier walls, guardrails or grassed earth medians. The shoulder areas of these roadways may be grassed earth, paved or have curb and gutter. Multilane roads may be low speed roads with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less, intermediate speed roads with posted speed limits of 40 mph to 50 mph or high speed roads with posted speed limits of 55 mph or greater.

Interstate – Interstate roads are free flowing access controlled freeways with four or more travel lanes. These roads occur in rural and urban areas. The opposing travel lanes may be separated by grassed earth medians or concrete median barrier walls. The immediate shoulder areas of these roads are paved. Interstate roads are high speed roads with posted speed limits of 55 mph to 70 mph. Intersections with crossing routes are grade separated interchanges.

ROADWAY SPEED CLASSIFICATIONS

Low Speed – A low speed road has a posted regulatory speed limit of 35 MPH or less.

Intermediate Speed – An intermediate speed road has a posted regulatory speed limit of 40 MPH to 50 MPH.

High Speed – A high speed road has a posted regulatory speed limit of 55 MPH or greater.

TRAFFIC VOLUME CLASSIFICATIONS

Low Volume – A low-volume road has an average daily traffic volume (ADT) that does not exceed 400 vehicles per day. If the traffic volumes are not known, the following rule of thumb may be used.

“Rule of Thumb” - Determination of a Low Volume Roadway – Count all vehicles that pass a single reference point over a five (5) minute period. If not more than 5 vehicles pass a single reference point in a five (5) minute period, then consider the road low volume.

Intermediate Volume – An intermediate volume road has an average daily traffic volume (ADT) that ranges from greater than 400 to 10,000 vehicles per day.

High Volume – A high volume road has an average daily traffic volume (ADT) that exceeds 10,000 vehicles per day.