



# User Guide for the Temporary Traffic Control Devices (TTCD) Technical Committee

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**Introduction:** The NTPEP program has successfully supplied material performance data to AASHTO member departments for Flexible Delineators and Workzone Channelizing Drums since 1998. With the reduction in staffing that most departments continue to experience the NTPEP data has become an integral part of many member states departments' qualification process. With few exceptions, developing criteria for product qualification has been a difficult task for individual states. This guide is offered as information for AASHTO member departments for interpretation and use of the data generated through the NTPEP evaluation program. Manufacturers that elect to participate in the program are assessed fees which cover the cost of the testing and reporting of information. Member states are assessed an annual fee for all Technical Service programs provided by AASHTO.

**Key Aspects of the Program:** The purpose of the Temporary Traffic Control Devices (TTCD) Panel is to promote highway safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel throughout the Nation. Roadside Flexible Delineators and Workzone Channelizing Drums are widely used in temporary traffic control. They are a form of "traffic control device" as defined by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The NTPEP Technical Committee responsible for authoring the Project Work Plan, convenes yearly at the NTPEP National Meeting. During this working meeting, the Project Work Plan is discussed; changes are made, and shortly thereafter balloted for adoption. Improvements are immediately implemented in the next available testing cycle. When compared to other standards development exercises, the NTPEP process is agile, effective and efficient. Each Project Work Plan (AASHTO Designation: [xxxx] Standard

Practice) is adopted after receiving at least two-thirds affirmative support from 52 AASHTO member states. The Project Work Plan is the basis for host states to conduct their testing and evaluation. When implemented by state DOTs, their own state standard specifications may supersede the NTPEP Project Work Plan. Industry is advised to be aware of state-level requirements, which may supersede basic NTPEP testing. The national testing facility for Flexible Delineators under AASHTO/NTPEP auspices is operated by Florida DOT. The national testing facility for Workzone Channelizing Drums under AASHTO/NTPEP auspices is Tennessee DOT. All performance data collected through these evaluations are reported through an online database; <http://data.ntpep.org/>. Access to proprietary data is limited to the submitting manufacturer and the member Departments of Transportation.

### **Terminology:**

Flexible Delineators - MUTCD defines Flexible Delineators as retro-reflective devices typically mounted above the roadway surface and at continuous intervals along the side of the roadway to indicate alignment. MUTCD also allows delineators to be used in conventional plazas to



channelize vehicles into a toll lane and prevent crossing into or out of a channelized lane or access way. The more commonly used delineators installed to separate vehicles are flexible devices that are anchored to the pavement using adhesives and or hardware. Typically, Flexible Delineators are used on curvilinear sections of roadway; thereby enhancing the horizontal geometry so motorized vehicles may negotiate the curve. These roadway safety features are especially important while driving during nighttime and adverse weather. The advantage of Flexible Delineators is the low cost to remove and replace these devices to accommodate reconfiguration of the plaza.

Non-Flexible Delineators - Delineators used to define plaza alignment are commonly rigid and are anchored below the ground surface.

Drums - temporary traffic control devices that are highly visible, have good target value, give the appearance of being formidable obstacles, and command the respect of road users. They are portable enough to be shifted from place to place within a temporary traffic control workzone in order to accommodate changing conditions, but are generally used in situations where they will remain in place for a prolonged period of time. Workzone Channelizing



Drums should not be used for pedestrian channelization or as pedestrian barriers in temporary traffic control workzone on or along sidewalks unless they are continuous between individual devices and detectable to users of long canes.

**Review of Evaluations and Significance of Data Generated:** This Data Usage Guide provides details for the Project Work Plan (AASHTO Designation: [xxxx] Standard Practice for NTPEP Evaluation of Temporary Traffic Control Devices) regarding the sampling, laboratory and field evaluation for Flexible Delineator Posts and Workzone Channelizing Drums. It is understood that individual agencies may elect to utilize these parameters based on their respective programs. While NTPEP works to make the product evaluation process comprehensive and meet the requirements for AASHTO member departments, all test data should be carefully reviewed by the specifying agency and in the context of experience with these products. With this in mind review of the data produced through this evaluation program should be viewed as a tool in making reasonable judgments and selection of Flexible Delineators and Workzone Channelizing Drums for projects in any specific location.