This factsheet provides information on temporary traffic arrangements used for short-term low impact works on Queensland roads. These works need to be managed in accordance with Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 of the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ Manual of Uniform of Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Part 3 – Works on Roads.

Short-term low impact works are works that must be completed/removed in one shift with minimal disruption to normal traffic conditions. Work crews and plant must be able to be mobilised quickly and without the need for extensive signage, traffic control devices or traffic control personnel. All related workers, materials and plant must be able to be readily established and removed from the roadway in a short period.

Workers and plant are normally positioned close to live traffic with minimal protection and it is vital that a site-specific risk assessment is undertaken prior to commencement of works to determine if a short-term low impact work site is suitable.

Examples of short-term low impact works include, but aren’t limited to:
- inspections, investigations and surveying
- pavement marker laying
- pavement testing
- pit cleaning or repair
- litter collection
- tree pruning or planting
- road signs or street furniture maintenance
- street light maintenance and installation
- mowing and litter activities
- graffiti removal
- minor tree clearing
- minor cleaning of culvers, pipes and pits
- herbicide spraying
- road edge guide post repairs
- footpath works.

MUTCD Part 3 Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 cover a wide range of work durations from less than a minute to over an hour (at each location). Examples of short-term low impact works that may take longer than an hour are mowing and surveying activities.

The following pages of this factsheet illustrate the basic characteristics of different types of short-term low impact work site arrangements. The traffic management requirements for each of these options are outlined within MUTCD Part 3 Clauses 4.3 and 4.4.

The clauses are applicable but not limited to the following:
- work between gaps in traffic
- short term work in traffic
- frequently changing work areas
- shoulder grading on sealed roads
- mobile inspections
- work off the travelled path
- work protected by specialist vehicles
- survey work
- traffic investigations
- road lighting works
- works on medians, verges and footpaths
- street sweeping and garbage collection.
Typical time to complete work activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than 1 minute</th>
<th>1 to 5 minutes</th>
<th>5 to 20 minutes</th>
<th>More than 20 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work between gaps in traffic * (Cl. 4.3.2)</td>
<td>Work off the travelled path (Cl. 4.3.7)</td>
<td>Work protected by specialist vehicles (Cl. 4.3.8)</td>
<td>Shoulder grading on sealed roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Road Environment</td>
<td>Work between gaps in traffic* (Cl. 4.4.7)</td>
<td>Road lighting works (Cl. 4.4.4)</td>
<td>Mobile inspections (Cl 4.3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work off the travelled path (Cl. 4.3.7)</td>
<td>Frequently changing work area – outside of traffic lanes (Cl 4.4.2)</td>
<td>Survey work (Cl 4.3.9)</td>
<td>Traffic investigations (Cl 4.4.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently changing work area (Cl. 4.3.3)</td>
<td>Frequently changing work area – within traffic lanes (Cl 4.4.3)</td>
<td>Works on medians, verges and footpaths (Cl 4.4.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Up Environment</td>
<td>Street sweeping and garbage collection (Cl 4.4.6)</td>
<td>Work protected by specialist vehicles (Cl. 4.4.8)</td>
<td>Survey work (Cl 4.4.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Traffic investigations (Cl 4.4.10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are typical times. The clause has no specific timeframes as long as the work activity can be undertaken safely.


Traffic Guidance Schemes must be prepared by a competent person with Traffic Management Design certification.

Other TMR Works on Roads Factsheets related to this topic include:
- Static Work Sites on Urban Residential Streets
- Works on Unsealed Roads

For more in-depth information refer to the MUTCD in the first instance, and then contact trafficengineering.support@tmr.qld.gov.au if required.
Types of short-term works

The following figures show commonly used traffic management arrangements that must be implemented in accordance with the requirements of Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 from MUTCD Part 3. These diagrams are indicative only and do not cover all sub-clauses relevant to short term low impact works.

Work between gaps in traffic

Works must be short enough to be completed between gaps in live traffic under these arrangements. This is typically only suited to a single worker with basic tools and materials accompanied by a lookout. Examples of this type of work are removal of obstructions or debris, minor pothole repairs, survey or setup of temporary signage.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.3.2

Short-term work in traffic

Works may be undertaken on the roadway or within 1.2m of moving traffic, where the work site is not occupied for more than 5 minutes and traffic flow is not obstructed. Examples of this type of work include drainage pit inspections and emergency repairs.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.3.3

Shoulder grading on sealed roads in open road areas

Shoulder grading works on sealed roads with low traffic volumes in an open road area. If traffic volumes are greater than 1500 vehicles per day, alternative arrangements such as mobile works or static work sites are required.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.3.5
Work off the travelled path (open areas)

Works that involve a vehicle or item of plant operating off the road may be considered low impact works. Importantly, any plant must be easily packed up in a short time to be considered low impact. Examples include mowing, garden maintenance and footpath works.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.3.7

Frequently changing work area

Frequently changing work areas are similar to short term works in traffic but frequently move between successive locations in one shift. Each work site is considered as a specific area (i.e. work site is not continuously moving) and can be within or outside of a live traffic lane. An example of this type of work is stormwater pit maintenance.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.3.3, Cl. 4.4.2, Cl. 4.4.3

Road lighting works

Road light works involve access to lighting fixtures, posts and pits adjacent to the roadway. These works may require plant to be placed within the roadway for short periods. Examples may include light fixture replacement.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.4.4

Works on medians, verges and footpaths (built up areas)

Works to service medians, verges or footpaths can be completed within a single shift and without a support vehicle on the roadway. The existing speed limit of the road should be considered in determining appropriate clearances from live traffic lanes. Examples of this type of work include mowing, litter removal, garden maintenance and cleaning.

Refer to MUTCD Cl 4.4.5