



**COLORADO**  
**Department of Transportation**  
Office of the Chief Engineer  
Traffic & Safety Engineering Branch  
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To: American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)  
Colorado Contractors Association  
Western Colorado Contractors Association  
Rocky Mountain ATSSA  
CDOT Program Engineers

In today's current circumstances, in regard to overall safety and social distancing, the Colorado Department of Transportation would like to remind designers, contractors, and construction project teams the benefits of two unique traffic control devices that may assist in social distancing in work zones and keep the project work active.

- **Automated Flagger Assisted Devices (AFAD)** provide the benefit of increasing a flagger personnel's safety as this individual is no longer required to be near the travelled way. There is also an advantage in the effort to increase social distancing in this circumstance as a flagger is able to maintain a large distance from the traveling public. AFAD's are typically utilized on 2-lane roadways where traffic is alternated in one direction of the roadway while the other direction is closed for construction. These traffic control devices still require traffic control personnel to be present on the work site, but can distance themselves as these devices are controlled remotely. In smaller work zones, where one operator can see both ends of the job site, one traffic control personnel can manage both AFADs from a safe location. On larger work zones, AFADs can be managed in several ways including, but not limited to, the pilot vehicle controlling the AFADs or a single point of contact managing the AFADs while utilizing radio contact with location based flaggers.  
For more information, please see MUTCD Section 6E.04
- **Portable Traffic Signals** provide a benefit by effectively eliminating the potential hazard of a flagging individual on the work site. This can be seen both in terms of overall safety and social distancing. Typically, Portable Traffic Signals are utilized during 24-hr work zone operations (either at all times or for selected durations) where it may not be practical for a flagger to be present at all times on 2-lane construction sites.  
For more information, please see MUTCD Section 6F.84

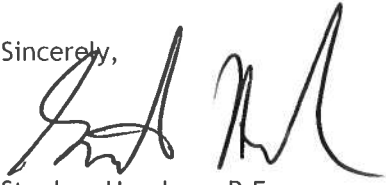
These devices are portable and many models offer fail-safe configurations and/or intrusion alarms. Since the temporary traffic plans (or Method of Handling Traffic) are extremely similar to a regular flagger operation, personnel have an easier time incorporating these devices into their daily work zone routine. Also, it is recommended to include training from the manufacturer.



As construction to our transportation's infrastructure continues and must continue, consider your work zone's impact to the traveling public in terms of new state and federal guidelines, such as social distancing. In order to keep projects active during this uncertain economic time, keep workers as safe and socially distanced as possible, and meet new state and federal guidelines, consider the above devices. Utilizing traffic control devices which may be considered out-of-the-norm, may in fact have unique benefits to both the travelling public and our workers very pertinent to today's circumstances.

For more information on approved traffic control device products, specifications, MUTCD requirements, etc., please call Tom DiNardo at 303/757-9098.

Sincerely,



Stephen Harelson, P.E.  
Chief Engineer

