State of California  

Memorandum  

To: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS  

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Traffic Operations  
Mail Station 36  

Subject: Work Zone Speed Limits  

It has been noted that some districts continue to post regulatory speed limits within freeway work zones without performing the required Traffic and Engineering (T&E) survey and proper documentation entered into the project files. This practice is unacceptable, and results only in motorists contempt, and a majority violation of the speed limit due to lack of perception that there is a real need to reduce their speed.  

The only other method of documentation which is allowed to reduce regulatory speed limits is when a project has been evaluated and selected for the Construction/Maintenance Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program (COZEPP/MAZEEP), see attached memorandum "Construction Speed Zones" dated December 22, 1992 and the "Typical Signing for COZEPP/MAZEEP Reduced Speed Zone" plan.  

In either case, the speed limit should not be lowered more than 10 mph below the posted or maximum speed limit. If the project falls within an established 65 mph zone, and a 45 mph speed limit is considered necessary, it may be posted only if the approaching speed limits are lowered in two stages i.e., first to a 55 mph speed limit followed by a reduction to the desired 45 mph; however, it should be noted that a 20 mph speed reduction is usually not complied with by most motorists, even when the California Highway Patrol is present and visible.  

Any restrictive geometrics or conditions such as horizontal alignment, narrowed lanes, structural section gut-out next to traffic, etc., may be posted with a standard W6 (black on orange) suggested speed supplemental plate mounted below a construction warning sign advising of the roadway condition.  

Please make a wide distribution of this memorandum to all employees who may be involved with traffic control plans and/or work zone planned traffic management. If there are questions, please direct them to either Mr. Bill Hoversten at Calnet 464-4555, (916) 654-4555 or Mr. Fred Jager at Calnet 464-5528 or (916) 654-5528.

JAMES B. BORDEN  
Program Manager  
Traffic Operations

Date: November 22, 1996

File No.:
TYPICAL SIGNING FOR COZEEP/
MAZEEP REDUCED SPEED ZONE

1/2 mile ±

750' - 1000'

Begin Lane
Closure Signing

Median Shoulder

Shoulder

ROAD WORK AHEAD
C32
(w C1f)

48' x 48'

45 ZONE AHEAD
R2-4
36' x 45'

ROAD WORK AHEAD
C32
(w C1f)

48' x 48'

45 ZONE AHEAD
R2-4
36' x 45'

WILL BE ENFORCED

45 ZONE AHEAD

or

STRICT ENFORCEMENT

CMS

LANE CLOSED
C30

48' x 48'

See Standard Plan T10 for lane closure details and requirements

Median Shoulder

Shoulder

FAS

No Scale
TYPICAL SIGNING FOR COZEEP/MAZEEP REDUCED SPEED ZONE

See Standard Plan T10 for lane closure details and requirements