

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Division of Traffic Engineering

Policy for Temporary Lane Blockages
August 2006

The issue of lane blockages and/or closures is an important one because of the concern for the safety of pedestrians, the motoring public, and the contractors. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Division of Traffic Engineering is responsible for issuing a permit for projects done in the public right-of-way under Chapter 17 of the LFUCG Code of Ordinances. There has been a greater demand and need for installations, repairs and other types of work to be performed in the public right-of-way over the past few years, as development, redevelopment, utility maintenance has continued to increase. A coordinated effort is essential for the overall safety of those mentioned above and for the efficiency of traffic flow.

To eliminate any confusion or conflicts of projects the following guidelines must be implemented and adhered to for lane blockages.

The Division of Traffic Engineering requires a two (2) working day notice (before noon) in order to process the Lane Blockage Permit and to allow time for notice to Police, Fire, Public Information and the Traffic Information Network. The only exception to this is for emergency repairs, which requires the contractor to notify Traffic Engineering, Police and Fire. This notification is to be followed up by the contractor obtaining a Lane Blockage Permit if the emergency repairs continue for more than that day.

Any person, contractor, utility company or government agency must contact the Division of Traffic Engineering before any lane blockage can be permitted to occur. Once the contact has been made, the request is either permitted or denied due to schedule conflicts, extent of work, or safety concerns.

The Division of Traffic Engineering issues the permits for those that call the Division (258-3830) or come by our offices located at 101 East Vine Street, Suite 300 to acquire their permit, which does not require any fee.

The Lane Blockage Permit hours usually are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and/or 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on arterials and collector streets. Local and residential street permits allow working hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. as long as intersections are not blocked during rush hour (7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.). These limited working hours are required to provide the motorists with the least impeded travel during the peak travel hours.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, utility companies and private contractors are required to use approved work zone traffic control procedures. The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* guides these work zone activities. The Division of Traffic Engineering has copies of the Traffic Control in Work Zones available upon request. Government agencies, utility companies and contractors are required to provide traffic control devices as deemed necessary to relay to motorists/pedestrians of the work zone activity and modifications to the anticipated route. The contractor assumes responsibility for setting up appropriate work zones and obtaining guidance from Traffic Engineering personnel as necessary. Staff depends heavily on input from citizens, police, and others to identify sub-standard work zone, traffic control devices and will work to rectify any hazardous situations.

The procedure for long-term lane blockages for projects such as those administered by the Division of Engineering requires more advanced planning prior to awarding contracts for the work. Traffic control procedures consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices are required for the projects. If streets or lanes of traffic are to be blocked during construction, the dates and times for the blockages must be specified in the bid documents. The divisions of Engineering and Traffic Engineering must approve any blockage or procedure change proposed by the contractor before the contractor is permitted to proceed.

The Division of Traffic Engineering requests the agency, utility company or contractor to contact Traffic Engineering upon completion of a project prior to the expiration date so that our information will be up-to-date and accurate.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Traffic Engineering	258-3830	425-2054
Police	258-3666	258-3608
Fire	254-1120	255-4302