

# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Traffic Engineering

## Policy for Temporary Lane Blockages

August 2019

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 temporary lane closure permits within the public right-of-way under Chapter 17 of the LFUCG Code of Ordinances. A coordinated effort is essential for the overall safety of those mentioned above and for efficient traffic flow within Fayette County.

To minimize confusion or conflicts between contractors, the following guidelines must be followed:

**Notification Requirements** – Submit requests directly by using this link ( <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/lane-closure-permit> ), by email ( [lane\\_blockage@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:lane_blockage@lexingtonky.gov) ), or by calling (859)258-3830.

- Three (3) working day notice required for Routine requests to close a single lane of traffic or sidewalk during off-peak times.
- Five (5) working day or more notice required for Significant requests and for those requiring full closures.
- Emergency request within the three (3) day notice will be evaluated and processed as quickly as possible based on conditions and available staffing. Contractors who make frequent emergency requests will be required to provide additional detail and justification for future requests.
- **Emergency after-hours (6 p.m. – 6 a.m.) lane closures** – This is reserved for true emergencies such as hazardous leaks, sink holes, downed power lines, etc. In this case, the utility or contractor must call the Public Safety non-Emergency number **(859) 258-3600** to inform emergency dispatch personnel of the situation, location, and expected duration. The contractor/utility company needs to inform Traffic Engineering of the emergency lane closure, preferably by email to both [traffic@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:traffic@lexingtonky.gov) and [lane\\_blockage@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:lane_blockage@lexingtonky.gov) as soon as possible to ensure information is distributed to the public.
- If the lane closure permit requires an extension or is no longer needed, the contractor must advise this office of the changed conditions as soon as possible. This information is vital particularly in areas where multiple contractors are involved.

### General Information:

- Routine requests are for lower volume streets on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Local neighborhood streets may be partially blocked between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Significant requests involve arterial streets, extended hours, and those requiring detours
- Overnight lane closures are encouraged as a way to extend working hours and lessen congestion caused by the lane closure. However, a Noise Variance Permit will be required for some activities.
- The *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Latest Edition* (MUTCD) shall be followed by anyone blocking any part of the public right-of-way. Government entities, utility companies and private contractors are required to use approved work zone traffic control devices and procedures.
- A well-defined and implemented traffic control plan will help guarantee the safety of your workers and the traveling public. Sometimes this requires measures above the minimums required by the MUTCD such as variable message boards before and during the work activity.
- Accessible pedestrian paths shall be maintained through or around the work site at all times. This may require sidewalk closures with signed detours or protected pathways adjacent to the work site when reasonable detour routes are not available.
- The Division of Traffic Engineering will notify concerned entities such as news outlets, public safety & public works offices, public information offices, KYTC, etc. with a daily report and web site updates Monday through Friday each week.