

Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice

Traffic Signals

THIRD EDITION

Contents

Glossary of Terms	xv
1. Introduction	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 Scope	1
1.3 Statutory Provisions	1
1.4 Associated Standards and Manuals	1
1.5 Guidelines	2
1.5.1 Signalised Intersection Warrants	2
1.5.2 Midblock Signalised Crossing Warrants	2
1.5.3 Warrants for Pedestrian Signals at Signalised Intersections	3
1.6 Environment	4
1.7 Design Process	4
1.8 Construction	4
1.9 Operation	4
1.10 Maintenance	6
1.11 Education and Enforcement	6
1.12 Definitions	6
2. Design Data	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Physical Layout of Intersections	7
2.3 Traffic Data	7
2.4 Crash Data	8
2.5 Future Developments	8
3. Geometric Elements	9
3.1 General	9
3.2 Traffic Lanes	9
3.2.1 Lane Arrangements	9
3.2.2 Right-Turn Lanes	9
3.2.3 Left-Turn Lanes	10
3.3 Corner Kerb Radius	11
3.4 Median Islands	11
3.4.1 Divided Roads	11
3.4.2 Undivided Roads with Small Median Islands at the Intersection	11
3.5 Painted Medians and Islands	11
3.6 Kerbside Allocations	12
3.6.1 Parking	12
3.6.2 Bus Zones	12
3.7 Service Roads	12

4.	Signal System and Components	13
4.1	System	13
4.1.1	Purpose	13
4.1.2	System Process	13
4.2	Components	13
4.2.1	Signal Lanterns	13
4.2.2	Associated Equipment	17
4.2.3	Lantern Supports	17
4.2.4	Power Reticulation	17
4.2.5	Signal Controller	17
4.2.6	Traffic Detection	17
4.2.7	Roadway Components	18
4.3	Component Selection	18
5.	Signal Face Layouts and Display Sequences	19
5.1	Introduction	19
5.1.1	Method of Controlling Traffic	19
5.1.2	Definitions	19
5.2	Signal Face Elements	19
5.2.1	Signal Aspects	19
5.2.2	Colour of Aspects	19
5.2.3	Size of Aspects	19
5.2.4	Types of Aspects	20
5.2.5	Target Boards	21
5.3	Vehicle Signal Face Layouts	21
5.3.1	Basic Signal Face Layouts	21
5.3.2	Multi-Column Signal Face Layouts	22
5.3.3	Four-Aspect Single-Column Signal Face Layouts	22
5.3.4	Two-Aspect Signal Face Layouts	23
5.4	Face Layouts with Right-Turn Arrow Aspects	23
5.4.1	Six-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Right-Turn Arrow Aspects	23
5.4.2	Five-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Right-Turn Arrow Aspects	23
5.4.3	Four-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Right-Turn Arrow Aspects	24
5.5	Face Layouts with Left-Turn Arrow Aspects	24
5.5.1	Six-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Left-Turn Arrow Aspects	24
5.5.2	Five-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Left-Turn Arrow Aspects	25
5.5.3	Four-Aspect Signal Face Layouts with Left-Turn Arrow Aspects	25
5.6	Permissible and Non-Permissible Signal Face Layouts	26
5.7	Sequence of Vehicle Signal Displays	29
5.7.1	Basic Sequence	29
5.7.2	Sequences with Arrow Aspects	29
5.7.3	Right-Turn Sequences	29
5.7.4	Left-Turn Sequences	30
5.7.5	Sequences for Two-Aspect Columns	30
5.8	Pedestrian Signals	35
5.8.1	Signal Face Layout	35
5.8.2	Basic Sequence	35
5.8.3	Procedure without Pedestrian Displays	35

5.9	Bicycle Signals	35
5.9.1	Signal Face Layout	35
5.9.2	Basic Sequence	35
5.9.3	Procedure without Bicycle Displays	35
5.10	Special Vehicle Signals	35
5.10.1	Signal Face Layout	35
5.10.2	Special Vehicle Sequence	35
5.11	Signal Start-Up and Failure Displays	36
5.11.1	Signal Display on Failure	36
5.11.2	Signal Display on Start Up	36
6.	Signal Phasing	37
6.1	Introduction and Scope	37
6.2	General Requirements for Signal Phasing	37
6.2.1	Fundamental Rules	37
6.2.2	Evaluation of Phasing Design	38
6.2.3	Crash Risk Factors	38
6.3	Phasing Design	38
6.3.1	Through Phasing with Filter Right Turns	42
6.3.2	Leading Right Turn Phasing	42
6.3.3	Lagging Right Turn Phasing	42
6.3.4	Split-Approach Phasing	43
6.3.5	Diamond Overlap Phasing	44
6.3.6	Lead-Lag Right Turn Phasing	44
6.3.7	Repeat Right Turn Phasing	44
6.4	Left-Turn Movements	45
6.5	Pedestrian Movements	47
6.5.1	General	47
6.5.2	Pedestrian Movements at Intersections	47
6.5.3	Midblock Signalised Crossings	48
7.	Location of Signal Equipment	49
7.1	Introduction	49
7.2	Designation of Signal Faces	49
7.3	Signal Face Functions	51
7.4	Signal Face Site Requirements	52
7.4.1	Recommended Minimum Number of Signal Faces	52
7.4.2	Dual Primary Signal Faces	53
7.4.3	Overhead Signal Faces	53
7.4.4	Pedestrian Signal Faces	53
7.5	Positioning of Signal Equipment	54
7.5.1	Lateral Post Positions	54
7.5.2	Longitudinal Post Positions	54
7.5.3	Collision Risk Reduction	57
7.5.4	Lantern Mounting Heights	57
7.5.5	Clearances from Power Lines	57
7.5.6	Lantern Aiming	57
7.5.7	Modification for Unusual Geometry and Other Physical Considerations	58
7.5.8	Other Street Furniture	59
7.6	Visors	59
7.7	Louvres	59

8.	Traffic Detection	60
8.1	Introduction	60
8.1.1	Traffic Detection During a Signal Cycle	60
8.1.2	Vehicle Detection Modes	60
8.2	Types of Traffic	61
8.3	Vehicle Detection	62
8.3.1	Detector Types	62
8.3.2	Detection System Functions	62
8.3.3	Loop Shape and Size	62
8.3.4	Location of Detectors	64
8.3.5	Operational Characteristics of Loop Detectors	66
8.4	Pedestrian Traffic Demands	66
8.4.1	Pedestrian Detection	66
8.4.2	Automatic Introduction of Pedestrian Movements	66
8.4.3	Push Button Location	66
8.5	Special Traffic Detection	67
8.5.1	Buses	67
8.5.2	Trams	67
8.5.3	Bicycles	67
8.5.4	Emergency Vehicles	68
8.5.5	Emergency Service Demand	68
8.5.6	Railway Traffic	68
9.	Signal Controllers	69
9.1	General	69
9.2	Types of Control	69
9.2.1	Traffic-Actuated Control	69
9.2.2	SCATS Master Isolated Control	69
9.2.3	Semi-Actuated Control	70
9.2.4	Fixed-Time Control	70
9.3	Selection of Appropriate Control	70
9.3.1	Facilities	70
9.3.2	Controller Capacity	71
9.3.3	Controller Operation and Maintenance	71
9.4	Controller Programming	71
9.5	Preventing Hazardous Displays	71
10.	Pavement Markings	73
10.1	General	73
10.2	Longitudinal Lines	73
10.2.1	Dividing Lines	73
10.2.2	Lane Lines	73
10.2.3	Turn Lines	73
10.3	Transverse Lines	73
10.3.1	Stop Lines	73
10.3.2	Pedestrian Crosswalk Lines	74
10.4	Painted Medians and Islands	74
10.5	Pavement Messages and Symbols	74
10.6	Raised Pavement Markers	74

11. Signs	75
11.1 Introduction	75
11.2 General Requirements	75
11.2.1 Erection	75
11.2.2 Periodic Signs	75
11.2.3 Illuminated Signs	75
11.3 Signs at Signal Installations	75
11.3.1 Parking Signs	75
11.3.2 STOP HERE ON RED SIGNAL/ARROW Signs	75
11.3.3 GIVE WAY TO PEDESTRIANS Sign	76
11.3.4 Pedestrian Scramble-Crossing Sign	76
11.3.5 Signs to Control Turning Movements	77
11.3.6 U-TURN PERMITTED Sign	78
11.3.7 TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE Sign	78
11.3.8 LEFT TURN ON RED PERMITTED AFTER STOPPING Sign	79
11.3.9 Hook Turn Only Sign	79
11.3.10 Traffic Signal STOP Sign	79
11.3.11 Warning Signs	80
11.3.12 NOT IN USE Sign	80
11.3.13 Fault Reporting Sign	80
11.3.14 Other Signs	80
12. Electrical Design	81
12.1 General	81
12.2 Installation	81
12.3 Cables	81
12.4 Vehicle Loop Detector Cables	82
12.5 Data Link Cables	82
12.6 Cable Connection Design	82
13. Coordination of Traffic Signals	83
13.1 Introduction	83
13.2 Principles of Coordination	83
13.2.1 Fundamentals of Signal Coordination	83
13.2.2 Offset Strategies	85
13.3 The Case for Coordination	86
13.4 Types of Coordination	86
13.4.1 Local Interlinking	86
13.4.2 Synchronous Linking	87
13.4.3 Wide Area Control Systems	87
13.5 Coordination Methods	88
13.5.1 Fixed-Time Plan Selection System	88
13.5.2 Traffic-Responsive Plan Selection System	88
13.5.3 Fully-Adaptive System	88
13.6 Design Factors	88
13.7 Coordination Requirements Affecting the Design of Signalised Intersections	89
13.8 Coordination Timing Criteria	90

14.	Installation Checks and Maintenance	91
14.1	Precommissioning Checks	91
14.1.1	General	91
14.1.2	Check List	91
14.2	Monitoring and Evaluation of Operation	92
14.2.1	General	92
14.2.2	Check List	92
14.3	Maintenance	92
14.3.1	Maintenance Management	92
14.3.2	Maintenance Records	93
14.3.3	Preventative Maintenance	93
14.3.4	Breakdown Maintenance	93
14.3.5	Lamp Replacements	93
14.3.6	Accident Damage	93
14.3.7	Cleaning and Painting	94
14.3.8	Spare Parts	94
14.3.9	Replacement Scheduling	94
15.	Special Applications and Facilities	95
15.1	Introduction	95
15.2	Advance Warning Signals	95
15.3	Railway Level Crossings	96
15.3.1	Proximity to Level Crossing	96
15.3.2	Linking Requirements	96
15.3.3	Railway - Road Crossing within the Intersection	96
15.3.4	Conflicting Railway and Road Signals	97
15.4	Emergency Vehicle Facilities	97
15.4.1	Facilities Close to a Signalised Intersection	97
15.4.2	Signals for Midblock Access Points	97
15.5	Public Transport Priority	98
15.5.1	Bus Priority	98
15.5.2	Tram Priority	98
15.5.3	Operation	98
15.6	Bicycle Facilities	99
15.7	Roundabout Metering Signals	99
15.8	Ramp-Metering Signals	101
15.9	Special Intersection Treatments	102
15.9.1	Seagull T-Intersections	102
15.9.2	Paired Intersections	103
15.9.3	Intersections With More Than Four Legs	104
15.10	Overhead Lane-Control Signals	105
15.11	Single-Lane Operation and Portable Signals	105
15.11.1	Single-Lane Operation	105
15.11.2	Portable Signals	106
15.12	Left Turn On Red	106
15.13	Metering Signals at Sign-Controlled Intersections	106

Appendix A Human Factors	107
A.1 General	107
A.2 Human Behaviour	108
A.3 Vision	109
A.3.1 Visual Sensitivity	109
A.3.2 Visual Acuity	110
A.3.3 Colour Perception	110
A.3.4 Photometric Requirements of Signals	111
Appendix B Vehicular Traffic Factors	112
B.1 General	112
B.2 Vehicle Deceleration and Acceleration Characteristics	112
B.2.1 Deceleration Characteristics	112
B.2.2 Acceleration Characteristics	113
B.3 Basic Properties of Vehicular Traffic	114
B.3.1 General	114
B.3.2 Basic Parameters	114
B.3.3 Flow Rate, Density and Occupancy Ratios	115
B.3.4 Basic Relationships at Traffic Signals	116
Appendix C Signal Timings	121
C.1 Introduction	121
C.2 Signal Timing Methods	121
C.2.1 Green Times and Cycle Time	121
C.2.2 Maximum Tolerable Delay	123
C.3 Actuated Controller Operation	123
C.3.1 Vehicle Phase Intervals	123
C.3.2 Pedestrian Intervals	125
C.3.3 Actuated Controller Settings	127
C.4 Vehicle Settings	127
C.4.1 Late Start Setting	127
C.4.2 Minimum Green Setting	128
C.4.3 Maximum Extension Green Setting	128
C.4.4 Gap Setting	129
C.4.5 Early Cut-Off Green and Early Cut-Off Yellow Settings	129
C.4.6 Vehicle Clearance Settings	130
C.4.7 Other Vehicle Settings	132
C.5 Pedestrian Settings	133
C.5.1 Pedestrian Walk Time	133
C.5.2 Pedestrian Clearance Time	134
C.5.3 Pedestrian Delay Setting	134
C.6 Bicycle Settings	135

Appendix D Worked Example	136
D.1 Introduction	136
D.2 Input and Output Requirements	136
D.2.1 Input Data	136
D.2.2 Output Information	137
D.3 Existing Geometry and Phasing	138
D.3.1 Description and Input Data for Design 1	138
D.3.2 Analysis Results for Design 1	140
D.4 Proposed Geometry and Phasing	141
D.4.1 Description and Input Data for Design 2	141
D.4.2 Analysis Results for Design 2	143
D.5 Implementation of Proposed Design	147
D.5.1 Provision of Signal Hardware and Location	147
D.5.2 Cable Connection Design	149
D.5.3 Selection of Controller Settings	149
References	153
Information Retrieval	158