**Add the following new section under Chapter 2:**

# *2.6 POLICY ON TRAFFIC PROTECTION*

**A. Traffic Control** - The primary function of all temporary traffic control is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians through or around temporary traffic control zones while reasonably protecting workers and equipment. A concurrent objective of the temporary traffic control is the efficient construction and maintenance of the highway and utilities.

**A-1. General:** As a minimum, the Utility shall comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), current edition, for all utility work - whether or not written authorization is required. Copies of the current MUTCD may be obtained from the FHWA web page at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov.

The safe passage of vehicular traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians through and around a temporary traffic control work zone, while minimizing confusion and disruption to traffic flow, shall have priority over all other utility activities. During the initial installation or construction of the facilities authorized by a permit, or during any future repair, removal or relocation thereof, or during any miscellaneous operations and maintenance activities, the Utility shall at all times, install, maintain and remove all certified flaggers, signs, warning lights, channelization devices and other safety devices as described in the MUTCD and the temporary traffic control plan. All temporary traffic control devices shall be removed from the Department's right of way as soon as practical when they are no longer needed. When work is suspended for short periods of time, temporary traffic control devices that are no longer applicable shall be removed or covered.

The Engineer reserves the right to require additional certified flaggers, signs, warning lights, channelization devices and other safety devices as may be necessary to properly protect, warn and safeguard the traveling public. Continued failure of the Utility to comply with the requirements of this or any other related section will result in the Engineer issuing a written order to stop work (i.e. Stop Work Order). Upon issuance of a stop work order, all utility work on the right of way will be suspended, except erosion control and traffic control, until corrective actions or deficiencies are addressed, and the Engineer issues a written resume work order.

In addition to this section, procedures and requirements for traffic control associated with a permit are contained in Chapter 3 and with highway construction are contained in Chapter 4. Safety and Convenience of Traffic requirements are described in Chapter 5.

**A-2. Flagger -** All flaggers shall be certified from a Department approved training program. Flaggers shall have their certification with them at all times, when flagging, and may be subject to inspection. Failure to provide certified flaggers shall be reason for suspending work requiring the flagger(s) until a certified flagger can be provided.

**B. Restriction Against Interference with Traffic -** The Utility shall so conduct their operations that there will be a minimum of confusion with or disruption of traffic upon and along the highway. This applies to both the initial installation and the continuing maintenance and operation of utility facilities. On heavily traveled highways, construction or non-emergency maintenance operations interfering with traffic shall not be allowed during periods of peak traffic flow. All work shall be planned so that closure of intersecting streets, road approaches, or other access points is held to a minimum. It shall be the responsibility of the Utility to notify property owners when private driveways are to be affected and to provide temporary measures to maintain access during construction.

Except in emergencies, there shall be no interference with or interruption of traffic upon and along the highway until a temporary traffic control plan has been addressed in accordance with Section 3.7 and other related sections. In emergencies the Utility shall notify the Department's Area Engineer or Area Permit Inspector, as soon as practical, but no later than 2 hours after the onset of the emergency. If the emergency occurs during non-business hours, including weekends, the Utility shall contact the Department's emergency operations number at 404-635-8000 (Atlanta Metro Area) or 1-888-635-8287 (Statewide). The Department reserves the right to prohibit any work which may interfere with traffic movement during times of peak traffic flow.

**C. Restrictions on Access** - It is expressly provided that, with respect to any limited access highway, the Utility, except as hereinafter provided, shall not have or gain direct access, either ingress or egress, from the main traveled way of said highway or its on or off ramps to any of the facilities authorized by the permit, and that access to said facilities from the main traveled way, or on or off ramps of said highway, is absolutely prohibited, either by vehicle or by foot. However, upon notice to the Department's Area Engineer or his representative that the construction of the authorized facilities pursuant to the permit is to be undertaken, or that an emergency exists and repairs are needed for the immediate protection of property and persons or prevention of injury, the Department may approve direct access for ingress and egress to said authorized facilities from said on and off ramps or main traveled ways, except that no vehicular traffic movement shall be allowed which would cross traffic or be contrary to normal traffic movement. Such permission will only be granted during the actual time of the construction of the authorized facilities or of the emergency, and the Utility agrees to take every precaution during such periods to safeguard the highway users. It is understood by the Utility that any violation of the above regulations governing limited access highways shall result in a cancellation of access privileges herein contained.

**Delete section 3.7 in its entirety and replace with the following:**

# *3.7 TRAFFIC CONTROL*

**A. General:** The Utility shall be responsible for the overall selection and installation of the appropriate traffic control devices. The Utility will plan and determine the scope of a temporary traffic control plan (TCP). A TCP describes temporary traffic control measures to be used for facilitating road users through a work zone. The degree of detail in the TCP will depend on the complexity of the work and traffic interference. The TCP shall include, but is not limited to, defining all materials, traffic control devices, traffic diagrams, pacing of traffic, and other activities required to accomplish the work. The conditions in each work zone will vary and all factors should be considered in determining the appropriate traffic control requirements. The TCP should start in the planning phase and continue through design, construction and restoration phases of the work.

The Utility shall indicate on each individual permit application whether the TCP is based on the typical application drawings contained in Part 6 of the MUTCD or a detailed TCP designed solely for a particular work site or a combination of both. If the Utility determines that a detailed TCP designed solely for a particular work site is needed, a copy of the detailed TCP shall be submitted with the permit application. The Department reserves the right to request a detailed TCP upon review of the permit applications. The detailed TCP will be reviewed by the Department. This is a general office review by the Department and is not an approval or guarantee that the methods proposed by the Utility will be suitable for the field conditions that may be encountered.

**B. Interstate and Limited Access Highways:** The Utility shall provide a detailed TCP with each individual permit application for all proposed work in, on, along, over or under interstate and limited access highways.

**C. All Other Routes:** For all other routes not included in section 3.7.B above, the Utility shall follow the general requirements listed in section 3.7.A above.

**D. Worksite Traffic Control Supervisor (WTCS):** For any work performed in, on, along, over or under the right of way, the Utility shall designate a qualified and adequately trained person as the WTCS. The WTCS will have the primary responsibility and sufficient authority for assuring that the TCP and other safety aspects of the work are effectively administered. The WTCS shall be available on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to perform his duties. The WTCS's traffic control responsibilities shall have priority over all other assigned duties. If the work requires traffic control activities to be performed during both daylight and nighttime hours, it may be necessary for the Utility to designate an alternate WTCS. An alternate WTCS must meet the same requirements and qualifications as the primary WTCS. The WTCS shall be responsible for administering the selection, installation, inspection and maintenance of all traffic control devices in accordance with the TCP, project plans, specifications, special provisions and the MUTCD. The WTCS shall be available on a full-time basis to maintain traffic control devices with access to all personnel, material, and equipment necessary to respond effectively to an emergency situation within forty-five (45) minutes of notification of the emergency. The WTCS shall regularly perform inspections to ensure that traffic control is maintained.

**E. Notice of Work Beginning:** Prior to beginning any work the Utility shall notify the Department's Area Engineer or Area Permit Inspector and present their work schedule and temporary traffic control plan in order to review for any changes from the initial submittal and for understanding by all parties prior to occupying the work site.

## *4.10 CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION*

**Add the following new section under 4.10:**

**D. Traffic Control -** Prior to commencing work associated with highway construction, whether by permit or agreement, the Utility shall conform with the requirements of **sections 2.6 Policy on Traffic Protection and 3.7 Traffic Control** of this Manual; except that prior to beginning any work the Utility shall notify the Department's Area Engineer or Project Engineer and present their work schedule and temporary traffic control plan in order to review for any changes from the preconstruction phase submittal and for understanding by all parties prior to occupying the work site.

## 5.1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTROLS

### F. Safety and Convenience of Traffic:

**Delete section 5.1.F.1 in its entirety and replace with the following:**

1. **Traffic Control -** Traffic control for utility construction and maintenance operations shall conform to **sections 2.6 Policy on Traffic Protection, 3.7 and 4.10.D Traffic Control** of this Manual.

5. **Residential and Commercial Driveways -** It shall be the responsibility of the Utility to notify property owners at least 72 hours in advance of when driveways are to be cut or blocked and to provide temporary measures to maintain access during the work. No resident or business shall be denied vehicular access to their property for any length of time other than as determined by the Engineer is absolutely necessary. Where two or more existing driveways are present for a business, only one existing driveway shall be closed at any time. The Utility shall maintain sufficient personnel and equipment on the work site at all times to ensure that ingress and egress are provided when and where needed. Stone or cold mix may be used temporarily. Plating may also be required on commercial driveways. The Utility shall restore such driveway to a condition similar or equal to that existing before such driveway cut was done, by repairing, rebuilding or otherwise restoring as may be directed.