



**TO:** Email Address  
**FROM:** Local Systems Bureau  
**SUBJECT:** Construction Zones near Polling Places  
**DATE:** February 14, 2022

On March 7, 2021, President Joe Biden issued Executive Order (EO 14019) on Promoting Access to Voting. The EO establishes a policy to promote and defend the right to vote for all Americans who are legally entitled to participate in elections. One aspect of voting access is the ability for voters to reach their polling places without significant or unexpected traffic delays. In many ways – election days are similar to planned special events where traffic volumes may be heavier than usual on corridors to local polling places – which includes issues such as parking availability and sidewalks.

The Executive Order can be found by clicking here: [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#)

Three implementation actions were identified to be spotlighted by the White House. Of these three actions, two belong to FHWA and are summarized below. The actions have been published as of September 28th, 2021 in a White House Fact Sheet here: [FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Promotes Voter Participation with New Agency Steps | The White House](#)

The two Departmental flagship actions led by FHWA in support of the Department's implementation plan will rely on cooperation with State DOTs and local agencies:

- **Action 1:** Support traffic analysis at local level: FHWA will work with state and local agencies to understand potential traffic impacts on and leading up to election day and encourage actions to address them. FHWA has a wealth of information to share with agencies about how to analyze traffic, manage congestion and help travelers find parking. FHWA will work with state and local agencies to raise awareness of traffic issues and work toward solutions to ease potential traffic bottlenecks around polling places during elections. The FHWA will encourage state and local agencies to provide particular focus on geographic areas of need, including densely populated, underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- **Action 2:** Minimize roadwork-related traffic delays to polling sites – The growing need to repair our roadways has resulted in a greater number of construction

work zones on highways and increased traffic congestion. FHWA coordinates with other national, state, and local agencies to improve construction work zone safety and mobility. To reduce the impacts of roadway work on access to polling sites, FHWA will assist and encourage transportation agencies and associations to proactively address any adverse work zone impacts and implement appropriate work zone management strategies. In this effort, a special focus will be placed on minimizing delays to access polling sites involving underserved or disadvantaged communities. The resulting trip reliability with minimum delays is expected to result in higher voter participation on election day.

Attached is a summary of available resources from FHWA, that may be helpful.

Iowa DOT, Local Systems Bureau

[https://iowadot.gov/local\\_systems/contact-us](https://iowadot.gov/local_systems/contact-us)