



# TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANUAL

## About This Manual

Revision Date: 07-01-2025

The Traffic and Safety Manual (TAS Manual) is intended to provide guidelines and information on how a certain activity related to traffic engineering is handled in Iowa on the primary highway system. To a lesser extent, the TAS Manual is used to document common practices of the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). Although it is intended for use on the primary highway system, parts of the TAS Manual may be used, as appropriate, on the secondary road system or the municipal street system.

Much of the TAS Manual content is based on the [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD), as adopted in [761 IAC Chapter 130](#). The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is the national standard for traffic control devices installed on all streets, highways, bikeways, and site roadways open to public travel. Users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the MUTCD as it contains many standards, guidance, and options that are not duplicated in the TAS Manual.

Statements using the word “shall” in the TAS Manual must not be overridden without first consulting Traffic and Safety Bureau staff, as many of these are also standard statements in the MUTCD. Statements using the word “should” in the TAS Manual can be overridden using engineering judgment, but it is still recommended to consult with Traffic and Safety Bureau staff before doing so.

### Effective Dates

No specific effective date is indicated for material published in this manual. Activities, processes, or projects already under development when new material is published should be examined on a case-by-case basis. If practical, the new guidance may be considered. However, this will depend on how much of the process has already been completed and any other considerations.

## **Revision History**

**Originally issued: 12-17-2001**

**Revision dates: 01-27-2004, 07-01-2025**