

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
INSTRUCTIONAL & INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Work Zones	NUMBER: IIM-TE-392
	SUPERSEDES:
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Design and Installation of WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES signs (R16-V3)	DATE: Oct. 31, 2019
	SUNSET DATE:
APPROVAL: <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>/original signed by/ Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Richmond, VA</p> </div>	

PURPOSE AND NEED

Legislation 46.2-1078.1 passed in the 2019 session of the General Assembly prohibits statewide any person from holding a handheld personal communications device in their hand while driving a motor vehicle in a highway work zone, with certain exceptions. The bill provides that a violation is punishable by a mandatory fine of \$250: [Handheld Communications Device Ban](#)

To ensure that motorists are aware of this legislation, the attached WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES sign has been created (R16-V3) for use in highly visible work zones across the state.

APPLICATION

- The WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES sign shall be installed on all Limited Access highway (including Design/Build and P3 contract) projects which have a duration of six months or longer, regardless of when the project was awarded.
- They shall be installed in both directions of travel approximately 1500 feet in advanced of the project limits signage or the ROAD WORK AHEAD signs and should be the first sign motorist see before entering into the advanced warning area of a project.
- It shall also be placed on entrance ramps coming into the project in advanced of the ROAD WORK AHEAD sign.

The WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES sign may also be used on all other road projects regardless of duration. Spacing of the sign should follow sign spacing

guidance in the Virginia Work Area Protection manual. In addition, the use of Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) with NO HANDHELD DEVICES, IN WORK ZONES may be used on any project to assist in getting this message out to motorist.

The WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES signs shall be removed at the conclusion of the project when the ROAD WORK AHEAD signs are removed.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date for this Memorandum is upon receipt, with a time frame of having the signs manufactured and installed by no later than January 1, 2020.

DESIGN

Details of the design of the WORK ZONE NO HANDHELD COMMUNICATION DEVICES sign (R16-V3) for Limited Access highways and all other roadways are shown below.

Attachment A – 60 inch by 48 inch sign shall be used on Limited Access highways

Attachment B - 48 inch by 36 inch sign may be used on all other roadways.

