

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Temporary Workplace Signers operating in HRM  
CC: Erin MacIntyre, Director Development Services  
Peter Duncan, P.Eng., Director Engineering & Building Standards  
Ashley Blissett, P.Eng. Manager Development Engineering  
FROM: Christopher Davis, P.Eng. Manager Right of Way Services  
DATE: November 14, 2022  
SUBJECT: **Placement of temporary Traffic Control Signage**

The following information is being provided to share with your membership. This information has also been distributed to Traffic Control companies currently working in HRM.

This image was shared on social media in June 2020. The image, and others like it, illustrate the hazards that construction signage creates for pedestrians when not placed correctly



In this case, a community member walking downtown in Halifax has encountered a temporary construction sign that is projecting over the sidewalk. The corner of this large orange sign may look obvious and easy to avoid, but it may not be so obvious to someone with limited vision. Pedestrians equipped with white canes or other mobility supports may not be able to detect these signs, and they pose a serious safety risk.

Temporary traffic control signage is installed by contractors and/or their traffic control sub-contractor. As a reminder, per the *Nova Scotia Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual*:

*The function of temporary workplace traffic control is to:*

- Provide for the safe and efficient movement of motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians around or through temporary workplaces.
- Protect workers in temporary workplaces from errant vehicles.

It is the responsibility of the licensed Temporary Workplace Signer to ensure the setup and signage meets this criterion.

In addition to the *Nova Scotia Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual* published by Nova Scotia Department of Public Works, Halifax Regional Municipality publishes a revised version of the *Traffic*

*Control Manual Supplement* annually. In 2021, a new section was added to the *Traffic Control Manual Supplement* regarding the Placement of Traffic Control Signage. This section seeks to clarify the expectations for signage within the pedestrian realm, specifically those signs that project over a sidewalk or bicycle lane, to promote safety for all road users:

## **12 PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAGE**

*The MANUAL specifies that posted signs which are 90cm by 90cm and 75cm by 75cm must be mounted such that the sign is 1.0m to 2.5m or 1.5m to 2.5m high respectively (measured from the bottom of the sign). In any case that temporary workplace signage (regardless of the sign dimensions) is mounted such that any part of the sign projects over a sidewalk, the minimum mounting height shall be 2.0m. In any case that temporary workplace signage (regardless of the sign dimensions) is mounted such that any part of the sign projects over a bicycle lane, the minimum mounting height shall be 2.5m.*

*The MANUAL also stipulates that Signs must be placed on or by the edge of the road where they are the most effective, but do not pose a hazard to traffic. All signs, mounted or not, must not pose a hazard to any road user. For greater clarity, this means that any signs in Low Mount Portable Sign Supports shall not completely block sidewalks or be placed such that they pose a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists.*

In 2023, this section will be expanded to include the following requirement relating to sign ownership:

*Traffic control signage that is placed within the HRM street right of way must include the owner's company name or logo so that the owner of the sign can be immediately identified should there be any concerns related to sign placement.*

**This memo is intended to advise Temporary Workplace Signers operating in HRM that the Municipality will be increasing enforcement for permit conditions which include compliance with the *Traffic Control Manual Supplement* and the sign placement requirements described therein.**

Failure to comply will result in the issuance of a Summary Offense Ticket and a notice to correct the placement of the sign(s) immediately. Non-compliance may result also in revocation of the Streets and Services permit and/or additional penalties as outlined in By-Law S-300.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in keeping public streets safe for workers and all road users.

Sincerely,



Christopher Davis, P.Eng.

Manager, Right of Way Services  
Traffic Management – Transportation & Public Works  
Halifax Regional Municipality