Chapter 1: Introduction

Usercost can affect many items in the total contract including how the TCP is phased, the construction duration and cost, therefore each program used requires engineering judgment. Usercost concepts are now required by FHWA in the TMP (Traffic Management Plan), a part of the final rule.

WZTC Design Engineers are mandated by the MUTCD to develop a plan that considers the safety of both road users and workers, efficient movement of road users through the work zone, and the efficient completion of construction activity.

To be able to successfully analyze usercost, a designer must understand the concept of Work Zone Capacity, how to use the available and various programs to determine usercost, and how to package the usercost so that the Contract Times Committee can make sound decisions regarding liquidated damages and overall contract time. Liquidated damages are the delay in completing work due to public inconvenience, obstruction to traffic, interference with business, and the increasing of engineering, inspection and administrative costs to the Department who will determine the amount of liquidated damages.

Usercost analysis should ultimately result in a balance between the needs of the road users and the efficient completion of construction activity.