Chapter 2: Suggested Minimum Volumes

NOTE: The vehicles per hour, (vph) and vehicles per hour per lane, (vphpl) shown below are the suggested volumes facilities should have before imposing day & time restrictions to the contract. Every facility must be evaluated for mitigating factors such as signalization, schools, industry businesses, etc. These factors dramatically reduce the capacity of the facility. Truck traffic over 15% will reduce these also.

I: 2 Lane, 2 Way Roadways

- During a flagging operation, the work zone capacity range for a two lane, two way Rural facility is approximately 750 vph to 1000 vph, (the total of both directions).
- During a flagging operation, the work zone capacity range for a two lane, two way Suburban facility is approximately 500 vph to 750 vph, (the total of both directions).
- During a flagging operation, the work zone capacity range for a two lane, two way Urban and/or Mountain facility is approximately 250 vph to 500 vph, (the total of both directions).

II: 4 Lanes, 2 Way Divided, Controlled Access

- The work zone capacity required for a 4-lane divided rural - controlled access facility is approximately 1,200 vphpl or greater during a lane closure.
- The work zone capacity required for a 4-lane divided urban - controlled access facility is approximately 1,500 vphpl or greater during a lane closure.

Note: Consult the Highway Capacity Manual, (HCM) Chapter 6 for freeways in excess of 4 lanes, complete control of access with more than 2 lanes in each direction for work zone capacity.

NOTE: Many facilities do not fall into any of the previous categories. Multi-lane undivided facilities are prime examples: 500-750 vph are good estimates to use as thresholds to begin lane closure restriction.