

Traffic Control Signals

FACT SHEET – DECEMBER 2008

The following fact sheet provides an outline to the planning, approval, funding and maintenance of traffic control signals on the NSW road network by local councils.

General

Section 45E of the Transport Administration Act, 1988 defines a traffic control light on roads or road related areas, and equipment used in connection with traffic control light as a traffic control facility.

Traffic control signals are the installation of traffic control lights at an intersection of two roads to control vehicle and pedestrian movements on all approaches. Traffic control signals can also control vehicle movements into and out of a land use development such as a shopping centre.

Pedestrian only traffic control signals are the installation of traffic control lights within a mid-block location of a road to control pedestrian movement across the road.

Traffic control signals can also include bicycle lights to manage bicycle movements.

Planning

The need to introduce or adjust existing traffic control signals can arise during councils planning for road safety, traffic management and development applications.

The decision to proceed with traffic control signals is typically based on a detailed analysis of local site conditions including surrounding road network and land use; road function and hierarchy; traffic volumes; crash types and rates; pamps and bicycle routes; traffic management needs; and impacts on vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians.

In urban areas proposals to introduce new traffic control signals should include traffic modelling to indicate the future operation of the traffic control signals and the connecting road network. Route and intersection microsimulation and intersection modeling may be

necessary depending upon the complexity of the road network.

Council's wishing to investigate the feasibility of implementing traffic control signals should consult the local RTA road safety and traffic management sections early in the planning process.

Approvals

Design, construction, erection, installation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement of traffic control signals must have the consent of the RTA on all roads in NSW.

Council concurrence is also required for the installation or adjustment of traffic control signals on the Regional and Local Road network.

For council initiated projects council or its contractor will be required to obtain written approval from the RTA and to enter into a works authorisation deed to construct or modify existing traffic control signals prior to the start of construction.

Funding

For council initiated projects, council will be required to fund all the planning/development/implementation costs including RTA supervision and the full maintenance costs of traffic control signals for the first ten years of operation.

RTA programs may provide funding for traffic control signal improvements on the Regional and Local road network. Funding will be based on project objectives, benefits provided, availability of funds, project cost and the priority of a project.

It should be noted that development applications with conditions of consent with RTA agreement to the provision of traffic control signals should be conditioned to fund all the planning/development/implementation costs including RTA supervision, enter into a works authorisation deed with the RTA and the fund all the maintenance costs for the traffic control signals for the first ten years of operation.

Maintenance

State Roads

The RTA maintains the traffic control signals including all equipment and software, regulatory signage and linemarking both transverse and longitudinal including up to the first 50m of any intersecting local or regional road.

The RTA maintains the road pavement only on the State road from kerb to kerb. The maintenance of the pavement in any Regional and Local road and any footpath areas is the responsibility of the respective Councils.

Regional and Local Roads

The RTA maintains the traffic signals including all equipment and software, regulatory signage on traffic signal posts and line-marking both transverse and longitudinal up to the first 50m. Although, it is expected that the longitudinal line markings will form part of a continuously line-marked road will be maintained by the responsible road authority as an integral part of that road's line-marking. The maintenance of the road pavement and any footpath areas is the responsibility of the respective Councils.

Road pavement and traffic facility standards

It is important that the road pavement is maintained to an acceptable standard so that the traffic signal loops operate effectively. In addition, reinstatement of the traffic signal loops should be an integral part of a major roadwork undertaken by or on behalf of council.

Should council wish to utilise multifunction posts at traffic control signals, a Memorandum of Understanding between council and RTA is required.

Council should not interfere or modify traffic control facilities including pits and covers when undertaking pedestrian pavement upgrades. Any new pits and covers should be in accordance with the RTA's standards.

Any line-marking removed as part of any roadwork needs to be reinstated in long life material, such as thermoplastic, by the responsible road authority.

Handover of traffic control signals to RTA

Council will be responsible for rectification of all defects at traffic control signals resulting from a council initiated project. Rectification to RTA satisfaction and in a timely manner is required.

RTA acceptance of the new traffic control signal asset will only occur when the traffic facilities assets are provided to standard acceptable to the RTA and operating appropriately.

Additional Information

- Traffic Signal Design Guidelines
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/downloads/technicalmanuals/trafficsignaldesign_dll.html
- Works Authorisation Deed

A works authorisation deed is a contract between RTA and proponent for construction of changes to the State Road network and traffic control signals.
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/downloads/landuse/landuse_c1_developersnotes.pdf
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/downloads/landuse/landuse_c2_projectmgt.pdf
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/downloads/landuse/landuse_c3_developerschecklist.pdf

Key RTA contacts

- Policy advice (design and maintenance) –
Manager Policies and Guidelines Network
Management Directorate (design)
Manager Traffic Facilities Asset Management
(maintenance)
- Planning, implementation and operation advice (council projects and development applications) –
Managers, Road Safety and Traffic Management
Regional Operations and Engineering Services
Directorate in RTA Regional Offices located in
Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Parkes, Wagga
Wagga and Grafton.
- Maintenance advice –
Traffic Facilities Maintenance Planner/ Traffic Systems
Maintenance Managers of Sydney Project Services
Regional Operations and Engineering Services
Directorate in RTA Regional Office, Sydney.