



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 61.9

TITLE: TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL

EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018

REVISED: Replaces Policy 505

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to ensure precise movement of traffic for the purpose of safety of the public at large, by utilizing standard manual signals in order to change the flow of traffic to protect evidence, safeguard an accident or crime scene, or move traffic from one place to another.

OFFICER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Officers shall immediately notify Communications Services of any hazardous situation which requires the immediate attention of the Department of Streets or Louisiana Department of Transportation personnel. Below are some instances where the proper highway or streets department personnel shall be notified:
 - (a) Obstacles in the roadway;
 - (b) Damaged roadway surface;
 - (c) Dead or injured animals on the road;
 - (d) Malfunctioning lighting;
 - (e) Serious accidents impeding traffic;
 - (f) Extreme traffic congestion;
 - (g) Surface conditions during inclement weather; and
 - (h) Damage to any Department of Transportation facility (e.g. control box sign, standards, posts, railings, impact reducing devices).
2. Officers observing hazardous road situations due to engineering deficiencies or antiquated design shall document same in a police report. The report shall be forwarded to the Commander of the Special Operations Division, Traffic Section. The Commander of the Traffic Section shall forward a copy of the report to the appropriate city or state agency for corrective action.
3. Uniformed officers may perform traffic control for the below situations:
 - (a) Major accidents and fatalities
 - (b) Major fire scenes
 - (c) SWAT incidents
 - (d) Those special events as deemed appropriate by the Commander of the Traffic Section
 - (e) Intersection control at major intersections during peak traffic hours or unusual occurrences

(f) Hazardous material incidents

4. When officers perform traffic control, he/she shall manually control traffic flow and direction until traffic can flow safely and smoothly by automatic control.
5. Officers conducting traffic control shall immediately notify Communications Services of their location and wear their reflective traffic vest and have a whistle, flashlight, and orange directional cone.

COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

6. Communications Services shall notify the proper authority in cases of dangerous road conditions. The Regional Traffic Management Center shall be notified of any road closures and/or dangerous road conditions.

USING TEMPORARY SIGNALS AND/OR SIGNS

7. The use of temporary traffic signals and/or signs shall be evaluated by a supervisor of the Traffic Section to determine if the controls are adequate to safely control the traffic at the location.

TRAFFIC CHECKPOINTS

8. The use of traffic checkpoints shall be at the discretion of the traffic platoon commander or the platoon commander of the district in which the checkpoint is to be conducted. Traffic checkpoints shall be conducted in accordance with current law. Consideration shall be given to the location of the checkpoint and the time of day with regard for the smooth flow of traffic. (See: **Chapter 61.15 – Traffic Stops and Checkpoints.**)

MANUAL OPERATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

9. The following circumstances may warrant manual operation of traffic control devices:
 - (a) Emergency incidents;
 - (b) Special events;
 - (c) Unusual incidents; or
 - (d) When deemed necessary by a supervisor.
10. Manual control devices are found inside the traffic control boxes located on or near the corner of intersections with traffic signal lights. A control box key may be obtained from the Public Works Department with written approval from the Traffic Section Commander or a member's Bureau Chief. Prior to use of a manual control device for a traffic control box, the member must receive training from an SOD – Traffic Section training officer or supervisor.

MANUAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION

11. Below are instructions for directing traffic manually.

POSITION

12. Officers should select a position to direct traffic which provides a full view of the intersection or incident scene and its approaches thereby making the officer readily visible to drivers and pedestrians and affording maximum safety.

STANCE

13. Officers shall assume a posture at the control position which reflects confidence, command and courtesy

COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

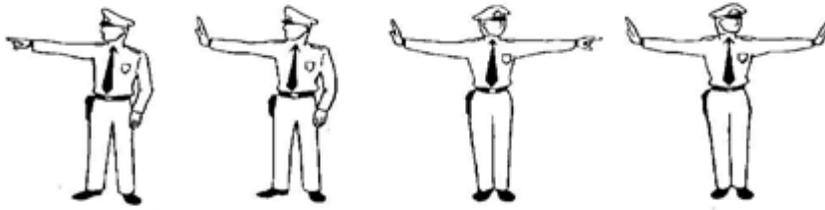
14. When more than one officer is involved in manual direction or control of traffic within the same area, the first officer on the scene shall assume the responsibility of coordinating traffic control.

SIGNALS

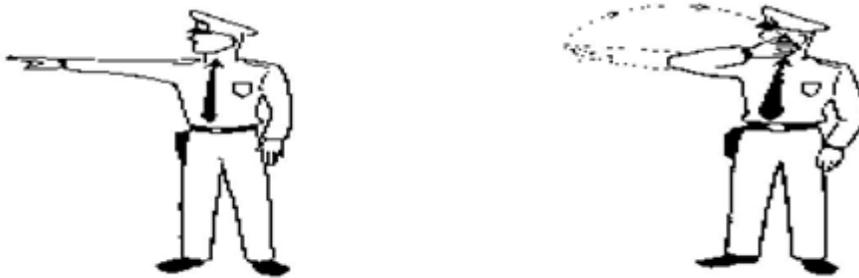
15. STOP—To signal a vehicle or stream of traffic to stop, the officer extends his/her arm toward the vehicle for which the signal is intended. The officer raises his/her upper arm to an angle of approximately 45 degrees above the horizontal, his/her elbow is bent, his/her hand is held in a vertical position with the fingers together and extended, and his/her palm is toward the approaching traffic. His/her hand is higher than his/her head and clearly visible to approaching traffic.
16. GO—The officer uses the hand nearest a stream of traffic to signal that stream to go. He/she starts the signal by first pointing his/her hand and arm horizontally with fingers extended toward the stream for which the signal is intended. He/she keeps his/her upper arm in a horizontal position while bringing his/her forearm and hand through a vertical arc. In signaling vehicles to go, the officer should remember that traffic from the right always passes in front and traffic from the left always passes in back of him/her. If traffic is to pass in front of the officer, he/she brings his/her hands to a position directly in front of his/her chin. He/she holds this position for approximately one second and then drops his/her hand to his/her side. He/she may repeat this signal rapidly several times to speed up sluggish traffic. He/she does not repeat it while a stream is moving, except to indicate that the flow is to continue after a break between vehicles. Unnecessary repetition of the go signal is tiring and may be interpreted as a faster signal, causing excessive speed through the intersection.
17. CHANGE DIRECTION OF FLOW—To change the direction of traffic flow, the officer first stops each stream of moving traffic. The stop position is executed with both hands. When the traffic has stopped and the intersection is clear, the officer turns 90 degrees and keeps both hands in the stop position. From the new position, he/she gives the go signal to streams of traffic to his right and left, separately. He/she takes care not to hold the stop signal too long after the vehicle makes its turn, because this would stop the flow cycle needlessly.
18. TURN—The officer indicates permissible turns by pointing, with arm and hand horizontal and forefinger extended, to the vehicle which is to make the turn. He/she then swings his/her arm and hand horizontally and points in the direction the vehicle is to turn. While giving the signal, he/she looks toward the vehicle which is to turn. He/she uses the other arm to stop traffic if necessary. On all left hand turns, he/she stops the opposing lane of traffic first to allow vehicles to make their turns. When the vehicle is to turn behind him/her, he/she twists his/her legs and body to complete the signal to the rear. His/her feet remain stationary when giving this signal. He/she is alert to drivers' signals indicating their desired turns. If a driver wishes to make a prohibited turn, he/she shakes his head "no." He/she uses his/her whistle to attract the driver's attention if necessary. He/she then indicates by appropriate arm signal whether the vehicle is to proceed straight through the intersection or stop until signaled to turn.
19. WHISTLE SIGNALS—Whistle signals shall be coordinated with hand signals and of

sufficient volume as to be audible with respect to surrounding conditions. Use one long whistle blast to command "Stop," two short whistle blasts to command "Proceed or Go," and a series of short whistle blasts to command "Attention."

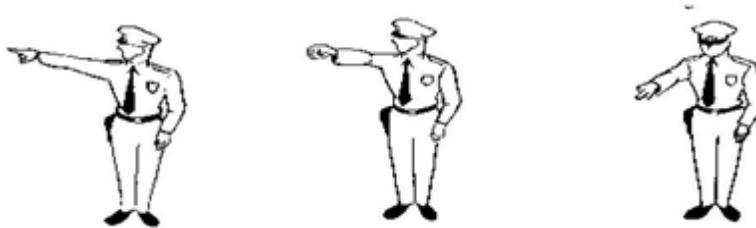
APPENDIX A: Examples of Manual Traffic Direction Signals



STOP



GO



RIGHT TURN



LEFT TURN