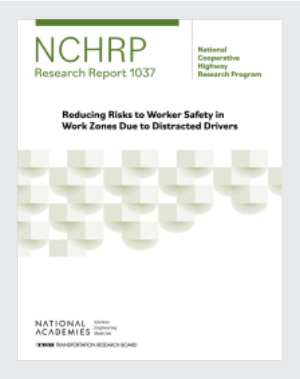

Reducing Risks to Worker Safety in Work Zones Due to Distracted Drivers (2023)

DETAILS

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CHAPTER 4

Conclusions and Proposals

Conclusions

The researchers investigated the use of two countermeasures for distracted driving: TPRSs and a "Watch for Workers When Flashing" warning sign. The research findings can be summarized as follows:

- TPRSs tended to have a more consistent positive effect in reducing distracted driving than the "Watch for Workers When Flashing" warning sign.
- Although site conditions and activities may have affected the evaluations, the data collected with and without the "Watch for Workers When Flashing" warning sign suggest that the effect of this type of signing is limited in terms of its ability to reduce distracted driving behaviors. However, such signing may have other benefits not evaluated in this study, such as increased signing credibility.

Proposals

As a result of the evaluations, the researchers propose that:

- Transportation agencies and contractors should consider TPRSs as a reasonable countermeasure for reducing driver distraction approaching work zones.
- The "Watch for Workers When Flashing" signing should not be implemented strictly for the purpose of reducing driver distraction approaching work zones. However, based on the data collected, such signing does not appear to increase such distraction and may offer other possible benefits (i.e., improved credibility of work-zone signing).

Suggested Research

The TPRS evaluations were short-term lane closure deployments. It is unknown whether semi-permanent rumble strips deployed upstream of long-term lane closures or other work zones will have similar distraction-reducing effects or whether the effectiveness will decrease over time due to increased local driver familiarity with the work zone. Additional research is needed to evaluate semi-permanent deployments as well as repeated short-term deployments of TPRSs on sequential days (e.g., for daily paving operations).