Use of Arrow Panels

Recently, it has been observed that arrow panels have been used incorrectly while doing maintenance work, most notably, operations performed on the shoulder. It is the intent of this advisory to help clarify the proper use of arrow panels during different maintenance activities.

An arrow panel in the arrow or chevron mode shall be used only for stationary or moving lane closures on multi-lane roadways (Refer to Figures 1, 2 and 3 on the following page for examples).

For shoulder work, blocking the shoulder, for roadside work near the shoulder, for temporarily closing one lane on a two-lane, two-way roadway, or as an optional warning device in a closed lane on a stationary operation an arrow panel shall be used only in the caution mode (Refer to Figures 4 and 5 on the following page for examples).

**Guidance:**
For a stationary lane closure, the arrow panel should be located on the shoulder at the beginning of the merging taper (Fig. 1).

Where the shoulder is narrow, the arrow panel should be located in the closed lane (Fig. 6).

**Standard:**
When arrow panels are used to close multiple lanes, a separate arrow panel shall be used for each closed lane.

**Guidance:**
When arrow panels are used to close multiple lanes, if the first arrow panel is placed on the shoulder, the second arrow panel should be placed in the first closed lane at the beginning of the second merging taper (Fig. 2). When the first arrow panel is placed in the first closed lane, the second arrow panel should be placed in the second closed lane at the downstream end of the second merging taper (Fig. 7).

For mobile operations where a lane is closed, the arrow panel should be located to provide adequate separation from the work operation to allow for appropriate reaction by approaching drivers.

**Standard:**
A vehicle displaying an arrow panel shall be equipped with high-intensity rotating, flashing, oscillating, or strobe lights.
**Arrow Boards in Arrow Mode**

Only used for lane closures on multi-lane roadways.

**Fig. 1**  
Stationary  
Single Lane Closure  
Multi-Lane Roadway

**Fig. 2**  
Stationary  
Multi-Lane Closure  
Multi-Lane Roadway

**Fig. 3**  
Mobile  
Multi-Lane Closure  
Multi-Lane Roadway

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**Arrow Boards in Caution Mode**  
Used on two-lane, two-way roadways and shoulder work.

**Fig. 4**  
Mobile/Short Duration  
Single-Lane Closure  
Two-Lane Two-Way

**Fig. 5**  
Mobile/Short Duration  
Shoulder Closure

**Fig. 6**  
Stationary  
Single-Lane Closure  
Multi-Lane Roadway

**Fig. 7**  
Stationary  
Multi-Lane Closure  
Multi-Lane Roadway

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**Alternate Positions of Arrow Boards**  
Used with limited shoulder widths.