



WCCTV

Building an Effective Traffic Management Plan

Why Does Traffic Management Planning Matter in The UK?

Traffic management planning is important for keeping road users and workers safe, avoiding costly delays and staying compliant with UK regulations. A well-structured plan helps maintain smooth traffic flow that reduces the risk of accidents and demonstrates due diligence for national safety standards.

When planning falls short, the consequences can be serious: vehicle collisions, worker injuries, delayed projects and reputational damage for contractors, transport planners and local authorities. In the UK, all temporary road works and short-term lane closures (STC) must comply with the following rules and regulations:



Additionally, under GG 117, part of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) used across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, every traffic plan for motorways, highways and major projects must be carefully planned, implemented and monitored to ensure full compliance and public safety.

Non-compliance results in fatalities, project delays, increased insurance costs and potential prosecution under health and safety legislation.

What is the Purpose of a Traffic Management Plan?



Improves road safety by reducing risks involving workers etc.



Minimises disruption by maintaining smooth traffic flow.



Supports legal compliance with local and national regulations.



Reduces environmental impact, such as noise and air pollution.

5 Things to Include in a Traffic Management Plan

Building a traffic management plan without a proper template is like constructing a house without blueprints. Here are the five key elements that belong in every professional TMP:



Traffic Measures



Risk Assessment



Project Details



**Communication &
Emergency Procedures**



**Monitoring & Incident
Management**

Project Details

This section helps workers and the public understand what to expect throughout the project:



Location:

Full address and affected road sections



Duration:

Start and end dates (including working hours)



Scope of Work:

Specific activities (resurfacing, maintenance, excavation, etc)



Traffic Warnings:

Possible effects and mitigation measures (diversions etc)

Project details keep everyone informed, from workers and planners to road users and emergency services, ensuring all understand what's happening, when, and how to navigate the area safely and efficiently.

Risk Assessment & Planning

An effective traffic management plan includes a detailed breakdown of the site area and the type of traffic and activity that flows around it. This is compulsory for all TTM projects in the UK.



Risk Assessment

Site assessments must include:

- Full site overview and configuration of working areas.
- Site-specific hazards (high-speed traffic, limited visibility, pedestrian crossings, major events, etc.).
- Identify who might be harmed (pedestrians, workers, etc.).
- Traffic management measures to reduce these risks to "as low as reasonably practicable" (ALARP).
- Monitoring and review methods (CCTV Towers, smart detection).

Site assessments should be continuous throughout the project. Planners and contractors must regularly review, monitor and update conditions to address and account for any new or evolving risks as they arise.

Risk Assessment & Planning

Design planning must show exactly how traffic will be controlled, taking traffic volumes, road layouts and project duration into account. Designs must comply with GG 104 (Safety Risk Assessment), Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and CDM Regulations 2015, and typically include:



Design Planning:

Site assessments must include:

- Work zone boundaries and safety zones.
- Pedestrian walkways, crossing points and nearby intersections.
- Vehicle routes and road closures.
- Sign and barrier placements.
- Access points for emergency vehicles.

These detailed drawings and/or site maps help workers understand site restrictions while guiding general road users safely through temporary traffic situations.

Traffic Control Measures

Now that you have a better understanding of the type of road risks you're dealing with, you must outline how you'll implement and manage various traffic control measures.

Traffic Management Controls:

Cones, barriers, advance signs, "stop-go" controls, Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS), Impact Protection Vehicles (IPVs) and EMCC (Enhanced Mobile Carriageway Closure) vehicles.

Separation:

Dedicated lanes for construction vehicles vs public traffic.

Vehicle / Pedestrian Routes:

Diversions and/or alternate paths that guide vehicles around hazards. Safe walkways away from construction zones.

Speed Management:

Temporary speed cameras, road closure signs, Traffic Safety and Control Officer (TSCO), Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and/or temporary CCTV monitoring with AI-video analytics.

Communication Procedures

Clear communication prevents confusion, especially for road users travelling 50+ mph on high-speed roads. Including detailed communication and emergency protocols in your traffic management plan ensures a rapid response when emergencies and incidents occur.

Stakeholder Communication	Public Notification	Emergency Response
Local authorities and highway teams	Advanced warning signs	Vehicle collisions
Emergency services	Intelligent transportation systems	Worker injuries & equipment failures
Nearby businesses and residents	Local media updates	Severe weather

Incident Monitoring

Continuous monitoring keeps your traffic management plan effective throughout the entire project. And this is where technology-enabled monitoring is making a real difference.



These GDPR-compliant technologies support GG 117 requirements for worker protection, continuous monitoring and incident logging, keeping your traffic projects fully compliant in the UK.

3 Week Strategy For Your Traffic Management Plan

Week 1: Conduct Site Assessment

Visit the roadside location to identify:

- Traffic volumes and road types.
- Existing infrastructure and access points.
- Site-specific risks and hazards (gradients, curves, blind rises, etc.).
- Pedestrian and cycle routes.
- Environmental factors (weather, lighting).

This assessment forms the foundation of your traffic management design plan and determines which traffic control measures are required to reduce risks to "as low as reasonably practicable".



3 Week Strategy For Your Traffic Management Plan

Week 1/2: Identify Traffic Control Measures

Based on your risk assessment, determine and document which traffic management controls are best for the site:

- Separation methods for construction vs public vehicles.
- Speed management controls such as temporary speed cameras, Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and/or temporary CCTV monitoring.
- Traffic management controls like cones, barriers, advance signs, "stop-go" controls and IPVs.



3 Week Strategy For Your Traffic Management Plan

Week 2: Develop Temporary Traffic Management Plan & Designs

Now that you've identified the key risks and control measures, it's time to develop your TTM design plan:

- Document all identified hazards.
- Define control measures (barriers, speed limits, signage, etc.).
- Specify monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Ensure compliance with GG 104 and CDM 2015.

Accompany this information with detailed drawings/site maps showing:

- Work zone boundaries, road closures and safety zones.
- Pedestrian and vehicle diversion routes.
- Signage placement at required distances (e.g., 800 metres before IVPs on motorways).
- Emergency vehicle access points.



3 Week Strategy For Your Traffic Management Plan

Week 2/3: Establish Communication Protocols

Next, you need to define:

- Notification timelines for local authorities and emergency services.
- Public communication channels (signs, websites, social media, etc.)
- Internal team communication methods.
- Incident reporting procedures.
- Emergency actions for vehicle collisions, equipment failures and severe weather.



3 Week Strategy For Your Traffic Management Plan

Week 3 (ongoing): Define Monitoring & Review Processes

Lastly, you need to set up systems that ensure your traffic management plan remains effective throughout the entire project, such as:

- Regular site inspections by Traffic Safety and Control Officers.
- CCTV surveillance with AI-powered detection software.
- 24/7 professional remote monitoring.
- Additional integrations such as ANPR, IoT environment sensors and/or Body Cameras.
- Incident logging and database building for post-scheme review.
- Plan adjustments based on findings.



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