



35.1.1 Introduction

Currently PCMS are available and deployed by Regions, typically through county highway departments and contractors, for various uses. The use of these signs shall conform to the following guidelines. PCMS are official traffic control devices and NOT a public information tool. Since they are dynamic signs, PCMS must only be used to display "real-time" or changing traffic condition or traffic control information. TGM Policy 17-2-1 provides guidance for when to use PCMS.

35.1.2 Needs Assessment

PCMS are used for work zone temporary traffic control, incident management, special events, and unusual/hazardous road conditions due to weather. This could include expected delay times in queue situations, warning of stopped traffic, ramp or lane closures, advisory speeds and alternate route advisories. They may also be used to provide advance notice (up to 10 days) prior to projects or events expected to cause congestion or that will require drivers to use alternate routes. PCMS should not be used to replace static warning or regulatory signs; they may be considered as a supplemental device to a required static sign. In the case of a ramp or lane closure, the PCMS would supplement the static warning signs informing motorists of the closure. It is at the discretion of the Region whether static or changeable message signs are more appropriate for specific applications.

The Department reserves the right to use/deploy signs from its inventory on an improvement project to improve safety and optimize the operational efficiency of a construction work zone. Contractor provided signs should be used for aforementioned purposes if they could be made available and deployed expeditiously and cost effectively.

35.1.3 Types

PCMS are available in various types, including fiber optic, light emitting display diodes (LED), bulb matrix and various hybrids of light source/disk technology. The standard for the industry is a 3-line sign with eight characters per line. The Bureau of Highway Operations maintains current literature on various manufacturers and specifications for PCMS.