Purpose

The purpose of the following requirements is to maintain a safe environment and efficient transit system for The Tide customers, employees, and contractors when work is being performed on the Right-of-Way (ROW).

The following procedures must be followed, and all requirements fulfilled before permission will be granted to any individual or group requesting access to the ROW to perform work. This includes all work on, under, above, or adjacent to the Right-of-Way that has the potential to impact train operations. The ROW is defined as Hampton Roads Transit owned property along the Light Rail System, including main line tracks, yard tracks, shop tracks, and stations. Work performed on the ROW, outside of the alignment, or areas where trains operate that will not impact train operations, e.g. park & ride lots, etc. are excluded from the scope detailed in the following procedures.

This procedure is applicable to contractors and Hampton Roads Transit employees.

Definitions

FLAG PERSON is a Level 2 qualified contractor or Hampton Roads Transit employee that is assigned as a dedicated flagger to protect work crews, personnel, and equipment working on or near the tracks to ensure safe passage of trains as described in SOP103.03 FLAGPERSON DUTIES.

FOULING A TRACK - Placement of an individual, material or equipment in such proximity to the track that the individual, material or equipment could be struck by a moving train or on-track equipment, or in any case is within 7’ 6” from the centerline of nearest track.

LOOKOUT - A Track Access Safety level 2 qualified Hampton Roads Transit employee or contractor who is qualified to provide warning to ROW workers of approaching trains
or on-track equipment. A Lookout should be equipped with the necessary equipment to warn ROW workers of approaching trains, as well as flagging equipment to be used if it is necessary to warn approaching trains. The Lookout’s sole duty is to look for approaching trains or on-track equipment and provide advanced warning to employees before arrival of the trains or on-track equipment.

**NO CLEARANCE ZONE** are areas along ROW where there is not 7’ 6” clearance from centerline of nearest track to nearest fixed object, e.g. wall, fence, bridge, steep embankment. Within these areas it is not possible for personnel to safely clear from fouling train movement. These areas are designated with reflective **No Clearance** signs on the ROW.

**OPERATING RIGHT OF WAY (ROW)** is the area within twelve (12) feet of the centerline of any track on the main line or yard. Distances may vary in the Central Business District (CBD).

A **PILOT** is a Level 3 qualified Hampton Roads Transit employee or contractor assigned to facilitate track car or on-track equipment movement when the operator or driver is not qualified on the physical characteristics or rules of the portion of the alignment over which movement is to be made. The pilot will be responsible for the safe movement of on-track equipment for the work crew to which they are assigned.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)** is land, property and interests therein, acquired or maintained by the Agency.

**TRAIN DETECTION** is a procedure by which a worker acquires ROW access safely by seeing approaching trains and leaving the track before the train arrives at the location at which they are working and which may be used only under certain conditions authorized by OCC.

**Procedures**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS TO THE ROW**

- To access the ROW all contractors and Hampton Roads Transit employees must have a minimum of Level 1 Track Access Safety Training and each work group must be accompanied by at least one person that is Level 2 qualified to serve as a flag person and/or lookout.

  - For unforeseen work and/or emergencies, Rail Operations may authorize an unqualified person or persons access to the ROW if accompanied by a qualified Hampton Roads Transit Lookout.

- The work crew must have in their possession a copy of an approved work permit describing the work being performed. Contractor must also meet all additional
requirements for ROW access described within this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the referenced documents. Prior to the start of any proposed work, Hampton Roads Transit employees and/or contractors must submit an Exhibit A HRT - Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit. Hampton Roads Transit will request a detailed work plan at minimum to include a list of qualified employees working the project, scope of work, requested time for work to be completed and equipment (if applicable). In the event there will be a scheduled lane closure, traffic plan(s) must be submitted. Once the necessary documentation is approved, the submitted permit(s) will be reviewed in the track allocation meeting. Hampton Roads Transit has the right to deny permit requests or request additional information prior to approval of the HRT Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit.

❖ Work permits are not required for Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) equipment maintenance performed on the mainline, yard, or shop.

- Operators of on-track equipment must be Track Access Safety Level 3 qualified. If not, a Track Access Level 3 qualified Hampton Roads Transit employee must accompany them. **All personnel or contractors accessing the Right of Way must be Track Access Level 1 qualified.** The pilot is responsible to ensure the qualified contractor’s on-track equipment is operated in compliance with Hampton Roads Transit operating and safety rules. The contractor requirement for the Hampton Roads Transit supplied pilot can be waived by Hampton Roads Transit, if it has been determined that the contractor’s on-track equipment operator has sufficient experience with Hampton Roads Transit operating and safety rules. Under the circumstance that the contractor will operate the on-track equipment without a Hampton Roads Transit provided pilot, the responsible operator must complete Track Access Level 3 training.

**TRACK ACCESS SAFETY TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS**

- The following table summarizes the required Track Access Safety Training necessary before any contractor or Hampton Roads Transit employee will be allowed to perform any work on the ROW. Annual recertification is required for Track Access Safety Level 1, 2, & 3 Training.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Work or Duties</th>
<th>Training Required</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any work within the Right-of-Way</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagging to protect work crews, personnel and equipment in the Right-of-Way</td>
<td>Level 1, and Level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating or Piloting any on-track equipment</td>
<td>Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• If Hampton Roads Transit employees are not qualified at a minimum Level 2 (Flagging), they must be escorted by another employee qualified to Level 2.

The Rail Operations Training Department and the Operations Control Center (OCC) will maintain a list of Track Access Safety Trained qualified persons and their level of qualification (e.g. Level 1, 2, or 3). An updated list will be kept on file in OCC. Dates, times and locations of Training class can be obtained by contacting Rail Operations Training Office at the listed email: trackaccess@hamptonroadstransit.onmicrosoft.com

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR

• Contractors must submit a detailed work plan that will include equipment used (if applicable), list of qualified personnel working, scope of work, requested time for work to be completed, and traffic plans (if applicable); that will be reviewed and approved by Rail Operations and Rail Systems.

  Note: Safety and Engineering Facilities will review the detailed work plan as required.

After acceptance of the work plan, the Contractor will obtain, through the procedure defined in this SOP, an approved EXHIBIT A: HRT Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit before any work can be performed and they must have their approved Exhibit A-HRT Right of Way Temporary Work Permit. Permits must be available at all times on the work site.

• Contractors will complete annual required Track Access Safety Training as described in the TRACK ACCESS SAFETY TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS section. Contractors will immediately stop any work that deviates from their approved Exhibit A-HRT Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit and/or detailed work plans that were previously submitted. Rail Operations must be contacted and must approve any alternate work procedures.

Contractor work activities will be terminated immediately by Rail Operations, Rail Systems or Safety and or Security Departments, at any time as described in SOP 103.03 FLAGPERSON DUTIES. HRT performs random inspections of the work site to ensure compliance to all applicable rules and Standard Operating Procedures referenced in this SOP.

• Typical conditions under which this may occur include, but are not limited to:
  ❖ Failure to comply with any of the requirements identified in this SOP or other documents referred to within.
  ❖ Safety related reasons including violation of safety policies including PPE or track access training qualification requirements.
  ❖ Operations schedule-related reasons.
If work in progress deviates from the written work proposal that was approved by Rail Operations.

Flag person(s) not present at the work site.

Contractors’ work interferes with the constant, continuous use of the tracks, property and facilities of The Tide Light Rail system, its employees, its customers or other contractors working within the right-of-way.

Accidents, incidents, injuries, near misses, or property damage.

Violations of any Rail Operation rules and/or SOP’s.

- All on-track equipment (including Hi-Rail Vehicles) must meet Federal Register 49 CFR, Part 214 standards, related to Roadway Maintenance Machine Safety. Contractors will be required to submit a list of qualified operators and which Roadway Maintenance Machines that they are qualified to operate on The Tide Light Rail System. The contractor will provide documentation of their training and qualification process subjected to Rail Operations and Safety/Risk Department approval.

- Contractor must satisfy all safety requirements including, but not limited to, those found in the Hampton Roads Transit Rail Operations Rule Book. Copies of pertinent rules will be available in the flag kits.

- Under no circumstances will any contractor access tracks with vehicles, equipment, or machinery, without explicit written permission from Rail Operations. Each individual working on the ROW is responsible to supply their own personal protective equipment, including a reflective safety vest that complies to ANSI performance class II (preferably with an X on the rear of the safety vest, hard hats, safety glasses where applicable, and safety boots with ankle protection (open toe or heel shoes are prohibited).

- These requirements should be followed for excavations:
  - Excavations to either side of tracks must be at least twelve (12) feet from the centerline of track.
  - Excavation under, between or within the track structure or the removal of ballast is prohibited unless approved by Rail Systems, Rail Maintenance, and Engineering Facilities in coordination with a safety review.
  - Under-track cable installations must be directionally bored using the following procedures.
  - A minimum depth of 8 feet below top of ties shall be maintained at all times or 8 feet below flow line of ditch, whichever is greater, must be maintained to top of conduit(s).
Conduit schedule Fiberglass Reinforced Epoxy (FRE) or equivalent is required.

Excavations that are within 5 feet of either side of buried signal, power, and communication cables; must be performed by hand digging and with Rail Systems, Rail Maintenance or Engineering Facilities personnel present at the dig site.

When cable work is being performed parallel to ROW, cables shall be laid at the same depth as The Tide Light Rail System cables. The location of the cables shall be between The Tide Light Rail System cables and the property line, not towards the track.

If cable locates are required, the procedures established by the Commonwealth of Virginia must be followed.

*Note:* Any deviation from these requirements will only be allowed with written consent from The Tide Light Rail System.

- Over-track crossings will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All over-track crossings must comply with the National Electric Safety Code (NESC).
- Contractor shall only enter the ROW with an approved *Exhibit A-HRT Temporary Work Permit*, unless otherwise approved by Rail Operations.
- Work performed by a contractor within the Operating ROW (12 feet of the centerline of a main line or yard track or closer than 10 feet of the OCS) will require a Temporary Restriction to be issued on the *Daily Operating Clearance*.
- If the contractor is performing work outside of 12 feet of the center line of any main line or yard, or outside of 10 feet of the OCS and it is possible for equipment (e.g. boom, or hoisted equipment etc.) to foul the operating ROW or has potential of making contact with the catenary, a temporary restriction will be required. In such cases, a Temporary Work Permit will have to be submitted and approved.
- The temporary restriction will require a dedicated flag person to provide flag protection for the work crew(s). Speed Restriction Signs will need to be posted to identify the work zone to approaching trains. Refer to *SOP103.03 FLAG PERSON DUTIES* for more information on flagging requirements.
- In the event that the contractor disturbs, or modifies Hampton Roads Transit property in any manner, the contractor must restore the property to the same condition it was in before the contractor performed work. Such restoration must be to the satisfaction of the Director of Transportation and the Director of Technical Services. Contractor will be billed for all work required to restoring property to original condition.
• Contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and standards affecting their work.

• As a limitation to any rights or licenses that may be granted to the contractor, Hampton Roads Transit reserves the right to use and maintain its entire property. This includes Hampton Roads Transits’ right to construct, maintain, repair, renew, use, operate, change, modify, or relocate railroad tracks, roadways, station platforms, signal, communication, fiber optics, power, or other wire lines, pipelines and other facilities upon, along or across any or all parts of its property. All or any of the above-mentioned use and maintenance may be done at any time by Hampton Roads Transit without liability to the contractor or to any other party for compensation or damages.

• The contractor is required to comply with Rail Operations “Insurance Specifications for The Tide Contractors”

• Rail Operations and the Safety Department reserves the right to fully investigate all contractor accidents, injuries, near misses, or property damage and the contractor and its employees agree to comply and assist Rail Operations in all aspects of these investigations. This includes, but is not limited to, drug and alcohol testing, employee interviews, written reports, and requests for documentation.

Contractor and employees who work on ROW will be required to comply with the Hampton Roads Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy.

CONTRACTOR PROCEDURE TO ACCESS THE TIDE ROW

• Contractor will request a ROW Work Permit packet from:

  Rail Operations
  1850 East Brambleton Avenue
  Norfolk, Virginia, 23504
  757-222-6063
  rowworkpermits@hrtransit.org

• Rail Operations will distribute SOP 101.12 Permit Numbers and Track Allocation, 101.13 WORK PERFORMED ON THE TIDE RIGHT OF WAY, SOP 103.03 Flag Person Duties and an Exhibit A-HRT Temporary Work Permit to the contractor.

• Contractors then submit the Exhibit A-HRT-Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit and provide the detailed work plan at minimum to include a list of qualified employees working the project, scope of work, requested time for the work to be completed and equipment (if applicable). In the event there will be a scheduled lane closure, traffic plan(s) must be submitted. All
other required documents to include coverage as described in the Description of Insurance Specifications must be submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to their proposed start date. Indemnification agreement and required insurance coverage will be reviewed by HRT Risk Manager along with the HRT Project Manager. This may include a detailed work plan and project drawings, list of employees working the project, any traffic plans, indemnification agreement and required insurance coverage as described in the Description of Insurance Specifications.

- Rail Operations distributes the permit and detailed work plan when required, to the appropriate internal departments for approval and facilitates a pre-project planning meeting with contractor(s).

- Rail Operations contacts contractor with approval and necessary requirements for Track Access Safety Training Level 1 through 3 training. Permit numbers are assigned by Rail Operations as described in SOP101.12 PERMIT NUMBERS & TRACK ALLOCATION.

- Contractors who are qualified to operate on-track equipment will have a qualified Hampton Roads Transit representative on the work site at all times. Movement and communication with the work group will be monitored by the Hampton Roads Transit Representative. The qualified Hampton Roads Transit representative will be responsible for the safe movement and compliance of the work group and on-track equipment.

- Contractors must submit (Exhibit A) HRT- Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit no later than Tuesday, 5:00pm, prior to the week the work will be accomplished. Permit must be resubmitted every week during the length of the proposed project.

  Note: If there is a Hampton Roads Transit recognized holiday on Wednesday, the work permits are due on Monday, 5:00pm.

  Note: If the project proposal changes significantly, a new Exhibit A HRT-Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit must be submitted. A new Permit Number will be assigned after the Permit is approved.

- Contractors and/or a Rail Operations representative are required to attend the weekly Track Allocation meeting scheduled every Wednesday with Rail Operations, Rail Systems and Engineering Facilities (where applicable) to respond to questions regarding proposed work. The Hampton Roads Transit project manager may represent the contractor at the Track Allocation meetings if it has been previously arranged.
Note: When the week includes a Hampton Roads Transit recognized holiday on Wednesday, the Track Allocation Planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.

- All work requests are subject to Rail Operations approval.

Note: Scheduling of work activities is subject to availability of Rail Systems, Rail Transportation, Safety, Security, Engineering Facilities personnel, as well as the effect it will have on customer service based on the impact the proposed work has on service quality and train schedules.

**Peak Operating Periods**

- Generally, work requiring a temporary restriction will be allowed only during non-peak operating times. Non-Peak operating times are on Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM to the end of revenue service and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

- Some work will be restricted to the after-revenue service hours of 12:00 AM to 5:00 AM.

- The Project Manager and/or Rail Operations will provide the contractor with a copy of their approved Exhibit A HRT-Right of Way Temporary Work Permit, which must be available on the project site at all times during work activities to confirm permission to occupy the ROW.

- Contractors must perform an onsite briefing and contact OCC to request permission prior to accessing the ROW. **OCC has authority over all activity along the ROW at all times.**

- Once work is complete, and the work area is cleared of materials, equipment, tools, and personnel, the contractor must contact OCC to confirm that they are clear of the ROW.

- Hampton Roads Transit provides contractor with an invoice for appropriate fees upon completion of the work on a monthly basis, as necessary.

- Contractors must submit payments (if applicable) to the Hampton Roads Transit Accounts Receivable department.

**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSIT EMPLOYEE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE FOR ACCESS TO RIGHT-OF-WAY**

- This procedure is to be used by all Hampton Roads Transit departments to receive temporary permit access to ROW.
Submit completed Exhibit B- Hampton Roads Transit Personnel Right of Way Work Permit to Rail Operations.

Permits are reviewed and approved at the weekly Track Allocation meeting by Rail Operations and Rail Systems.

Rail Operations publishes the Final Track Allocation for the following week and all revisions.

For unforeseen work such as emergencies or to perform minor corrections or routine inspections, OCC can authorize a Track Access Safety Level 2 qualified Hampton Roads Transit employee to access the track without an approved permit.

Work performed by an employee on the Operating ROW within 12 feet of the center line of an in-service main line or yard track will require a Temporary Restriction be issued on the Daily Operating Clearance. Exceptions to the temporary restriction requirement for employees can be granted under the conditions listed below.

- Work performed by Track Access Safety Level 2 qualified Hampton Roads Transit employee does not require the issuance of a Temporary Restriction if one of the following Train Detection schemes is used:

- **Worker(s) Using Train Detection to Clear the Operating ROW 15 seconds Prior to Arrival of Train.** Train approach warning shall be given in sufficient time to allow worker(s) to move to and occupy a prearranged place of safety outside of the Operating ROW (more than twelve (12) feet from the centerline of any track on the main line) not less than 15 seconds before a train moving at maximum authorized speed can pass the location of the worker(s).

  - The following four conditions must be met:
    - Where worker(s) are performing minor corrections or routine inspections.
    - Where no power tools or equipment are being used in hearing range of the worker(s).
    - Where worker(s) are performing tasks that allows them to be attentive to train movement.
Where the ability of the worker(s) to hear and see approaching trains is not impaired by background noise, lights, precipitation, fog, passing trains or other obstructions or physical conditions.

*If all four conditions cannot be met, a Lookout must be assigned to provide the worker(s) warning of approaching trains.*

- Trains must pass the location of the worker(s) at restricted speed if worker(s) have cleared so that they are not fouling the track but have not cleared off of the Operating ROW. OCC must contact a minimum of the next two approaching trains on the affected track before authorizing work or movement in this area. If work is for an extended time period, OCC will notify approaching trains as necessary to protect the workers.

- To access a No Clearance Zone, a temporary restriction must be issued for BOTH tracks.

- For unforeseen or emergency situations, OCC can authorize entry into No Clearance Zones for short durations without the issuance of a temporary restriction, but the following steps must be taken:
  - Train operation must be temporarily stopped on the track(s) in the area where the worker(s) will be located.
  - Normal Train operation in the affected area cannot resume until OCC is advised by the worker(s) that they are no longer fouling the track on which the train will operate.
  - Trains must pass the worker(s) at restricted speed if personnel remain within the Operating ROW.
ATTACHMENTS

EXHIBIT A - HRT- Right-of-Way Temporary Work Permit
### Exhibit B- Hampton Roads Transit Personnel Right of Way Work Permit

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*Note:* If Flag Person is marked "Yes," a work zone must be established with speed boards.

**Cross Reference**

(SOP 103.03 FLAG PERSON DUTIES, SOP 101.12 PERMIT NUMBERS & TRACK ALLOCATION).

## Review / Revision History

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<td>09/2015</td>
<td>Fouling a Track No Clearance Zone Track Access Safety Training Qualification</td>
<td>Removed 8, added 7'6&quot; Added Track Access Level 4</td>
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