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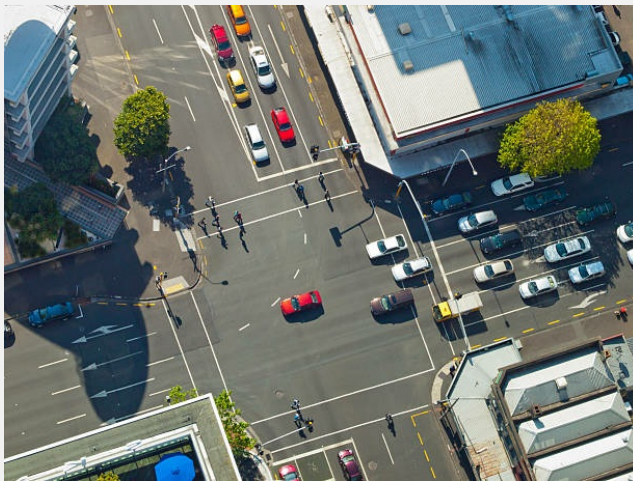
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TxLTAP May Newsletter

May 2025
Volume 3 | Issue 8

Understanding Sight Triangles at Intersections



Sight triangles are clear, unobstructed areas at intersections that allow drivers to see oncoming traffic and make safe decisions when entering or crossing a roadway. These triangles are essential for ensuring adequate visibility, particularly at stop-controlled or yield-controlled intersections.

There are typically two types of sight triangles:

- Approach Sight Triangle: Allows a driver approaching an intersection to see conflicting vehicles early enough to slow down or stop.
- Departure Sight Triangle: Provides clear visibility for a driver stopped at an intersection to safely enter or cross traffic.

FHWA Innovator



The March/April 2025 edition of the FHWA's Innovator newsletter highlights several key advancements in transportation innovation:

- Puerto Rico's First Diverging Diamond Interchange
- Oregon DOT's Strategic Approach to Internal Curing
- Enhancing Concrete Performance with Internal Curing
- Collaborating to Solve

The size and shape of a sight triangle depend on several factors, including:

- Design speed of the roadways
- Type of intersection control (stop, yield, signalized)
- Vehicle types and expected maneuvers

Obstructions such as signs, landscaping, fences, or parked vehicles can block these areas, reducing safety. Proper design and regular maintenance—like trimming vegetation and enforcing no-parking zones—are critical for keeping sight triangles effective. By understanding and applying the principles of sight triangle design, communities can greatly enhance intersection safety and reduce the risk of crashes.

**Institute of Transportation Engineers
Tool Kits, Clear the Intersection
Sight Triangles**

**Intersection Safety: A Manual for
Local Rural Road Owners**

BTS Updates National Transportation Statistics 3/31/2025

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics has released updated data on transportation safety, providing critical insights into accidents, crashes, fatalities, and injuries across all modes of transportation, including the movement of hazardous materials.

Collecting and regularly reviewing this data is essential for identifying trends, improving safety practices, and informing policy decisions that help protect the traveling public and transportation workers alike.

☐ Take a closer look at the data and see what it reveals about transportation safety trends.

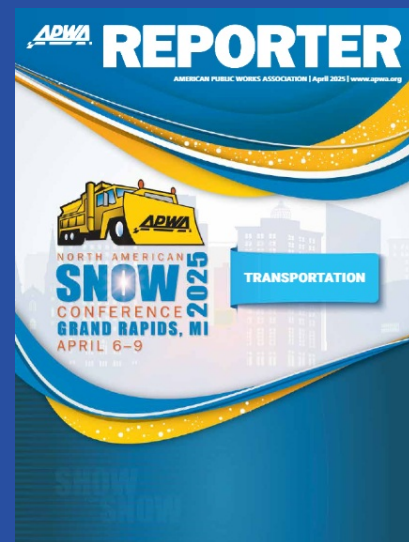
Learn More...

Road Data Challenges

These articles reflect FHWA's ongoing commitment to advancing transportation infrastructure through innovative practices and collaborative efforts.

Read The Innovator

APWA Reporter



The April 2025 edition of the APWA Reporter is packed with valuable insights for public works professionals. This issue highlights key topics including Sustainable and Resilient Pavements, the collaboration between APWA and LTAP, and an in-depth look at Reforming Federal Transportation Funding. As always, it also features the latest in industry news, innovations, and upcoming events.

☐ Check it out below!

APWA Reporter April

Blind Spot Awareness: Safety Tips for Heavy Equipment Operation

Equipment sight triangles are designated visibility zones near intersections where large equipment or vehicles (e.g., tractors, loaders, maintenance trucks) may obstruct a driver's view of oncoming traffic. These triangles are critical in areas like work zones, maintenance yards, or intersections near agricultural or industrial facilities.



The purpose of equipment sight triangles is to ensure that any parked or staged equipment does not block necessary lines of sight for safe vehicle maneuvering. Like standard sight triangles, the dimensions depend on factors such as vehicle speed, road geometry, and reaction time. Maintaining these clear zones is essential for minimizing collision risks and ensuring compliance with safety standards.

Operating heavy equipment requires more than just skill—it demands full awareness of your surroundings, especially when it comes to blind spots. These areas, where visibility is limited or nonexistent from the operator's seat, are one of the leading causes of struck-by incidents and other workplace injuries.

Here's what every operator, spotter, and crew member should know about blind spot safety:

☐ Understanding Blind Spots

- Heavy equipment like loaders, backhoes, excavators, and dump trucks have large blind spots on all sides—especially to the rear and sides.
- Even with mirrors and cameras, limited visibility areas still exist due to the machine's size and design.
- Pedestrians and workers on foot are often not visible to operators unless they make their presence known.

☐ Common Equipment Blind Spot Areas

- Directly behind the equipment (rear blind spot)
- Alongside the equipment near the back tires or tracks
- Below the operator's line of sight (for people or objects close to the machine)
- Boom or arm obstructions on excavators and backhoes

☐ Best Practices for Blind Spot Safety

- Always perform a 360-degree walk-around before starting equipment.
- Use a spotter when backing up or working in tight spaces.
- Communicate clearly using radios or hand signals between operators and ground workers.
- Ensure mirrors and cameras are clean and functional at the start of

each shift.

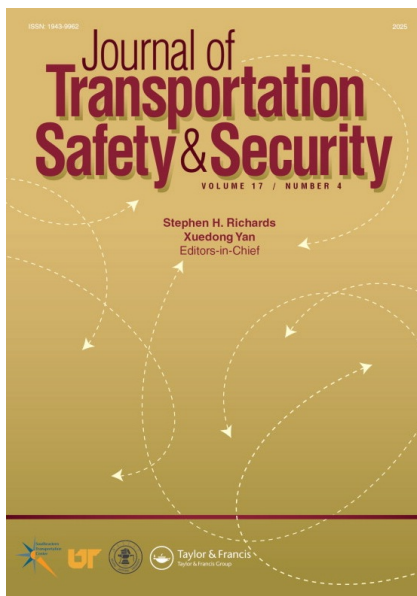
- Sound the horn before moving equipment to alert nearby workers.
- Establish and enforce exclusion zones where only authorized personnel may enter.
- Wear high-visibility clothing on job sites to increase visibility.

☐ Training and Awareness

- Conduct regular safety briefings and blind spot demonstrations for all crew members.
- Post signage reminding workers to stay clear of heavy equipment zones.
- Train operators to use backup alarms, cameras, and mirrors effectively—not as a substitute for caution, but as a supplement.
- Encourage a “safety first” culture where workers feel empowered to speak up about unsafe practices.

Blind spots can be deadly. Whether you're in the cab or on the ground, awareness, communication, and caution are key to keeping everyone safe. It only takes one moment of inattention for an accident to happen—stay alert and work together.

CDC Construction Equipment Visibility



Fresh Insights for Safer Roads: Explore the Latest Journal Release

Looking to stay current on the latest research in transportation safety? The newest edition of the Journal of Transportation Safety & Security is now available and packed with valuable insights for industry professionals. Volume 17, Issue 4 (2025) explores a range of timely topics—from infrastructure resilience to safety innovations and risk management strategies. Whether you're involved in planning, policy, operations, or research, this issue offers practical knowledge to support safer, more secure transportation systems.

View the Journal Articles

Train. Advance. Succeed. PWI Offers Open Enrollment Training Programs for Purchase

Did you know?

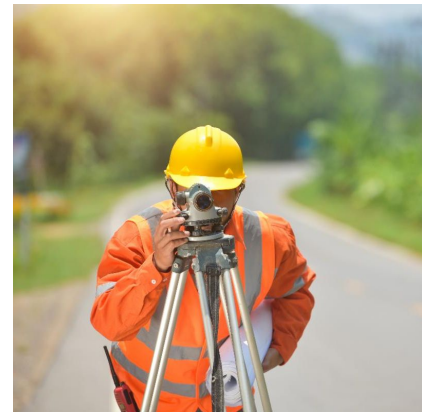
TxLTAP is part of the Public Works Institute (PWI) at the University of Texas at Arlington's Extension and Extended Campus. While TxLTAP delivers no-cost training to eligible local agencies, PWI offers the exact same courses for purchase, making them accessible to individuals, contractors, and organizations across the state who want to enhance their skills in public works, safety, management, and transportation.

Whether you are part of a city or county agency or an independent professional, these courses provide valuable knowledge and certifications to support your career and community impact.

Explore PWI's latest program offerings—available now!

Strengthen Your Inspection Skills with the Advanced Road Inspector Program

Take your highway construction inspection expertise to the next level with the **Advanced Road Inspector (ARI) Certification & Workshops**. Designed to go beyond basic inspection tasks, participants will learn about the full scope of highway construction, techniques, materials, and compliance standards. From asphalt paving to drainage systems and road signage, you'll gain hands-on experience to ensure infrastructure meets the highest quality and safety standards.



Advanced Road Inspector

Elevate Your Airport Expertise with Public Works Institute, 2025 Aviation Short Course Series

Empower your airport career with our two-day, expert-led courses. Designed for airport staff and consultants, these sessions deliver essential insights and practical skills, covering everything from Airport Pavements to Airside Design. Tackle the critical challenges of modern airport development, earn valuable CEUs/PDHs, and stay ahead of industry trends. Explore training opportunities below and watch for more courses in 2026.



Airport Short Course Series

Discover PWI's Professional Development Programs

Looking to grow your skills in public works, safety, or transportation management? The Public Works Institute (PWI) at UT Arlington's Extension and Extended Campus offers a full catalog of professional training courses—now available for purchase by individuals, contractors, and agencies.

These courses are the same high-quality classes offered through TxLTAP, but open to anyone looking to advance their knowledge and career.

- Flexible scheduling
- Expert instructors
- Industry-relevant topics

Explore all that PWI has to offer - visit our website today!

We're On the Road! Catch TxLTAP at These Events...

If you're attending an event or conference, be sure to stop by the TxLTAP booth to meet our team, learn about our free training and resources, and see how we can support Texas cities and counties!

While you're there, pick up some **TxLTAP swag**, including:

- TxLTAP bags,
- Glass breakers,
- Other exciting items!

Be sure to visit our booth!



South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association

June 02, 2025 - June 05, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 05:00 PM

**Omni Hotel Corpus Christi
900 N Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78401**

The 91st Annual South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Conference in Corpus Christi will provide up to 13 hours of continuing education for commissioners and four hours of judicial education for judges.

This event features expert speakers delivering timely, accurate information on key county government topics.

91st Annual South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association Conference

Texas APWA Annual Conference

June 9-11, 2025

McAllen Convention Center
700 Convention Center Blvd.
McAllen, Texas

The Texas Chapter's Annual Conference is multi-day educational and networking event with a program tailored to public works employees, including directors, supervisors, and field staff, as well as the consultants, vendors, and manufacturers who support and do business with them. The Annual Conference is one of the Texas Chapter's most important events and represents one of the primary funding sources used to support its continued operation.

Texas APWA Annual Conference

TxLTAP Partners

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[Build a Better Mousetrap \(BAM\)](#) program by the FHWA showcases innovative solutions to everyday challenges faced by local and tribal transportation professionals.

Learn More about
BAM



[The Every Day Counts \(EDC\)](#) initiative by FHWA promotes innovations to accelerate highway project delivery, improve safety, and reduce costs with support for strategies.

Subscribe to EDC
News!



Texas has lost at least one person every day on Texas roads since Nov. 7, 2000." Join TxDOT and Texans on ending the streak of daily deaths on our Texas roads. **#EndTheStreakTx**

TxDOT Safety
Campaigns

Have an Innovated Design or Project? Share It with Us!

Contact Us:

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