

Introduction

While the number of traffic accident fatalities has tended to fall in recent years, the total number of accidents has continued rising. To improve road safety to halt this rise, accident prevention countermeasures (below called, “countermeasures”) of various kinds are taken throughout Japan. But there are cases where such countermeasures do not necessarily reduce accidents. It is presumed that this happens because the countermeasures that are taken are not always necessarily appropriate to the causes of accidents.

This document was prepared by analyzing the causes of accidents at hazardous spots, collecting countermeasure cases, analyzing and studying causes of accidents and countermeasures taken in response to each cause for various road characteristics and accident types, and clarifying the process from the analysis of causes of accidents to the countermeasure proposal to systematically summarize the major countermeasures that have been studied and other countermeasures considered to be effective for each road characteristic and cause of accidents. Managers who actually take countermeasures in the field are expected to refer to this document to implement future countermeasures more efficiently and effectively.

Note that this manual is an English translation of the revised “Guideline for improving road safety at Hazardous Spots – from the point of view of infrastructure” (Technical Note of NILIM No. 165, March 2004). However, to more clearly define the guideline, Chapter 2 “Steps Relating to the Countermeasures” was extracted from the “Manual for Traffic Accident Prevention Countermeasures and Assessment” (September 2004, Traffic Bureau of the National Police Agency and Road Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)