Chapter 1   General

1.1 Purpose

In spite of the decreasing trend in the number of traffic accident fatalities in recent years, the situation remains serious as the number of traffic accidents is still increasing year on year. To improve road safety, various countermeasures to prevent traffic accidents have been taken around the country. However, not all of these countermeasures have proven successful in reducing the number of traffic accidents. It is therefore required to plan more effective countermeasures and to accurately assess their effects.

In view of this situation and to carry out countermeasures to prevent traffic accidents in the future more efficiently and effectively, this manual outlines the steps from planning to assessment of the countermeasures as well as precautions. It also shows examples of countermeasures taken to prevent traffic accidents, based on actual examples of traffic accidents that occurred at hazardous spots in order to analyze the causes, shows how these accidents are related to road structures and traffic environments ("road traffic environment"), and proposes the countermeasures. This manual also explains how to plan the countermeasures using the guideline.

1.2 Contents of this Manual

This manual consists of four chapters: Chapter 1, which explains the purpose of this manual, Chapter 2 "Steps Relating to the Countermeasures", Chapter 3 "Outline of the Guideline" and Chapter 4 "Countermeasure Planning".

Chapter 2 "Steps Relating to the Countermeasures" outlines the steps from planning the countermeasures to assessing their effects.

Chapter 3 "Outline of the Guideline" explains examples of countermeasures taken to prevent traffic accidents, including the analysis of past accidents and analysis of the examples of countermeasures. The data is particularly important for analyzing the causes of accidents and planning the countermeasures.

Chapter 4 "Countermeasure Planning" describes the steps from analyzing accidents to planning the countermeasures to prevent traffic accidents as well as applicable methods, using the examples of countermeasures.