Definition and Purpose

A temporary road is a road that is designed and built along a temporary alignment, solely for use during construction.

Temporary roads focus the ground disturbance of equipment and vehicles along a certain path, so that erosion and sediment movement can be planned and mitigated for in accordance with all applicable permits. Beyond focusing the disturbance, the location and design of temporary roads can actively aid in controlling erosion. Using other erosion control measures such as sloping, rolling dips, water bars, aggregate, level spreaders, water or chemicals for dust control, and culverts, in conjunction with temporary roads, may be appropriate and warranted.

Appropriate Applications

- On all associated haul roads within a construction site, especially where fugitive dust needs to be controlled.
- Where traffic will be detoured onto unpaved areas.
- Where access to sensitive areas, such as wetlands or live streams, is required.
- Where access to a bridge sites is constructed ahead of excavation.

Limitations

- Structures, such as water bars, road sloping, rolling dips and level spreaders are generally limited to low traffic volumes.
- Temporary constructed roads cannot encroach into jurisdictional wetlands without the appropriate permits.
Design Parameters

- Locate temporary roads to minimize erosion impacts. Design temporary roads to access sensitive areas at specific locations.
- At sites where traffic volumes are high, ensure that the entrance and roadway is wide enough for two vehicles to pass safely. Provide adequate turning radius at all entrances.
- Where appropriate, use geotextiles prior to placement of aggregate. Place aggregate at sufficient depth to support heavy equipment and protect existing pipe culverts from crushing.
- Route runoff from the road to a stabilized area (i.e., vegetated area, sediment basin or rip rap lined ditch).

Construction Guidelines

- Adequately slope temporary roads for good drainage, and install all other structures such as water bars, culverts, and rolling dips, according to plans and specifications.
- Do not use road sloping on grades steeper than 5 percent unless other structures are also used. If road is steeper than 5 percent, use gravel surfacing to minimize erosion, and slope the road to the side that has a ditch.
- Make field adjustments, as necessary, to ensure proper performance.

Maintenance and Inspection

- Conduct inspections as required by the NPDES permit or contract specifications.
- Make adjustments based on inspections and have accumulated sediment and other debris removed and disposed of properly.
- At the end of construction, re-contour to original slope and return to natural conditions using permanent erosion and sediment control BMPs. Remove or stabilize trapped sediment and permanently stabilize disturbed areas.