Table 6H-4. Formulas for Determining Taper Length

Speed (S)	Taper Length (L) in feet
40 mph or less	$L = \frac{WS^2}{60}$
45 mph or more	$L = WS$

Where: L = taper length in feet
W = width of offset in feet
S = posted speed limit, or off-peak 85th-percentile speed prior to work starting, or the anticipated operating speed in mph

Table 6H-4(CA). Taper Length Criteria for Temporary Traffic Control Zones (for 12 feet Offset Width)

Speed* S (mph)	Minimum Taper Length** for Width of Offset 12 feet (W)			
	Merging L (feet)	Shifting L/2 (feet)	Shoulder L/3 (feet)	Down Stream (feet)***
20	80	40	27	50
25	125	63	42	50
30	180	90	60	50
35	245	123	82	50
40	320	160	107	50
45	540	270	180	50
50	600	300	200	50
55	660	330	220	50
60	720	360	240	50
65	780	390	260	50
70	840	420	280	50

* - Posted speed limit, off-peak 85th-percentile speed prior to work starting, or the anticipated operating speed in mph.

** - For other offsets use the following merging taper length formula for L:
For speeds of 40 mph or less, $L=WS^2/60$
For speeds of 45 mph or more, $L=WS$

Where: L = taper length in feet
W = width of offset in feet
S = posted speed limit, off-peak 85th-percentile speed prior to work starting, or the anticipated operating speed in mph

*** - Maximum downstream taper length is 100 feet. See Section 6C.08.