I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 634 – Worker Visibility, which becomes effective November 24, 2008. The purpose of 23 CFR 634 is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment while working within the right-of-way on Federal-aid highways.

II. Definitions

A. High-Visibility Safety Apparel - personal protective safety clothing (including vests) that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage, and that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107–2004.

B. Workers - people on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, responders to incidents within the highway right-of-way, and law enforcement personnel when directing traffic, investigating crashes, conducting criminal investigations, processing crime scenes and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters within the right-of-way of a public roadway.

III. Policy

A. It is the policy of this Department to provide high-visibility safety vests that comply with the requirements of 23 CFR 634 for personnel that perform traffic control or other non-exempt enforcement and investigative activities along all public roadways.

[NOTE: While 23 CFR 634 only requires the use of high-visibility apparel on Federal-aid highways, the Department of Public Safety has extended this requirement to all public roadways, for safety reasons.]

B. Exceptions to this rule are allowed for law enforcement officers working in potentially adversarial or confrontational roles. This includes traffic stops and searches.

C. Personnel are required to wear their issued high-visibility safety vest or other qualifying high-visibility safety apparel when performing non-exempt duties within the right-of-way of a public roadway, such as when: directing traffic; investigating crashes; handling lane closures,
obstructed roadways, and disasters; engaged in non-exempt follow-up criminal investigative activities; and processing crime scenes.

D. DPS personnel providing traffic direction and control functions shall conform to the procedures outlined in DOM 45-03.04 ISP.

Eugene T. Meyer, Commissioner
Iowa Department of Public Safety

October 17, 2008