



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

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November 24, 2004

TO: Division Engineers
FROM: J. Stuart Bourne, PE, State Work Zone Traffic Engineer
SUBJECT: Work Zone Advance Warning Signs for Encroachment Agreements

As most of you are aware, beginning with the January 2005 Let, the retro-reflective sheeting on all work zone signs will be changed from Type I sheeting (engineer grade) to Type VII, VIII or IX fluorescent orange sheeting (prismatic). You will see these changes reflected in project contracts.

Presently, contractors working under encroachment agreements with the Department will not be required to meet this sign sheeting requirement as of the January 2005 deadline. Currently their encroachment agreements state that they must meet the most current edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The most current edition of the MUTCD (2003 edition) does not require retroreflective sheeting for work zone signs when used only during the day, but does require retroreflective sheeting for signs used at night. The MUTCD also states that all traffic control devices must meet NCHRP 350 standards. This means that advanced warning signs for NCDOT encroachment agreements may be made of a non-retroreflective material if used only during the day; but the signs and their supports must still meet NCHRP 350 standards.

Through a combined effort between the NCDOT Chief Engineer's office, NCDOT Work Zone Traffic Control Unit, NCDOT Utilities Coordination Unit, and an independent Utility Contractor's Association, all encroachment agreement contractors will be required to meet all the requirements of the NCDOT Standard Specifications and the MUTCD as of **January 2007**. This requirement will achieve work zone traffic control signing consistency for all entities working within NCDOT right-of-way.

If you have any questions about these requirements please contact me or Meredith McDiamid, P.E. of my staff.

JSB

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