

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATIONJAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNORDIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
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SECRETARY

April 30, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Engineers

FROM: J. D. Goins, P.E., Chief Engineer - Operations
B. G. Jenkins, Jr., P.E., Deputy Administrator - Preconstruction

SUBJECT: County Road Paddle Signing Policy

The Standing Operations Advisory Committee at its April 15, 1997 meeting discussed the issue of the NCDOT policy on installation and maintenance of county road paddles. These are directional guide signs composed of a black legend on a white background. There has been no official discontinuance of the policy related to these signs that the Traffic Engineering Branch has been able to find, although it is understood that some divisions are not installing or maintaining them at this time.

The SOAC committee recommended that the county road paddle signs be installed on a request/needs basis, to be determined at the Division level. We are in agreement with that recommendation and request that the existing policy on county road paddles as outlined in the North Carolina Supplement of the Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Street and Highways, 1985 in section 2D-49 on page 69, be continued with following clarification.

It will be the policy of NCDOT to reinforce the use of county road paddle signs by continuing to maintain existing signs, except in areas where expanding municipal limits take them into cities or when they are no longer needed. New signs should be installed and maintained when requested by the public and /or determined to be advantageous to the traveling public.

North Carolina is encouraging development of its tourist industry, as well as economic development which has contributed to an increase in traffic on many of our highways including the secondary road system. These county road paddles are considered to be essential in assisting this traffic to navigate our secondary road system safely and efficiently. This is also consistent with the Governors desire that our Department perform its mission in a customer oriented and user-friendly manner. Please review this issue with your appropriate staff to assure that there is an understanding that there should be statewide uniformity with the application of this policy.

JDG/BGJ/tbd