



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. BOX 25201
RALEIGH 27611-5201

JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

March 15, 1991

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

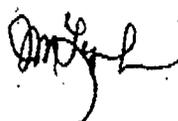
THOMAS J. HARRELSON
SECRETARY

WILLIAM G. MARLEY, JR., P.E.
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

In Reply Refer To
File No. SW 91-2

Memorandum

To: Mr. J. T. Peacock, Jr., P.E.
Chief Engineer - Preconstruction

From: J. M. Lynch, P.E.
State Traffic Engineer 

Subject: Drug/Gun-Free School Zone Signs

A multi-government group in Guilford County is requesting Department of Transportation permission to erect DRUG/GUN-FREE SCHOOL ZONE signs on state highway rights-of-way. Two signs are proposed to be erected for each of the 94 schools in Greensboro, High Point, and Guilford County. The signs would be erected on both sides of the school on the main road running by the school. They would be erected to mark the limits of the Drug/Gun-Free School Zone. This effort is being made in relation to state and federal legislation which has established drug-free and gun-free school zones. These zones extend for 1,000 feet beyond school properties. The Guilford County project will likely serve as a model for the rest of the state.

The multi-government group involved in the Guilford County program consists of the United States Attorney's office, school system officials, police and sheriff's offices, city officials, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The Guilford County Sheriff has already submitted a grant pre-application to the Governor's Crime Commission for funding the proposed signs.

The proposed signs are not necessary for the control of traffic nor do they provide information of benefit to the traveling public in general. They are simply intended to inform people entering the area that guns and drugs are forbidden. We would prefer the signs be erected on school

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property in parking lots and other gathering places at the school. However, the Guilford County group feels that method is not appropriate and they desire the signs be erected on highway rights-of-way at the zone limits for law enforcement purposes.

These signs are somewhat similar to Planning and Zoning Limit signs erected by municipalities and This Area Observed By Community Watch Citizens signs erected by neighborhood organizations. The Drug\Gun-Free School Zone Project likely will spread to every school in the State with signs being required for each school.

This is to request your review and direction on how we should proceed with this request. Attached for your reference is a copy of the materials we have concerning the Guilford County program.

If you need additional information, please let us know.

JML/HMS:hs

Attachment

cc: Mr. N. C. Crowe, Jr., P.E.
Mr. C. C. Sessoms, Jr.; P.E.
Area Traffic Engineers