



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

MAS J. HARRELSON  
SECRETARY

August 28, 1992

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

MEMORANDUM

In Reply Refer To  
File No. SW-89-2

TO: Mr. S. J. Hamilton, P.E.  
Division Traffic Engineer

FROM: J. M. Lynch, P.E.  
State Traffic Engineer *JML*

SUBJECT: Use of Pavement Markings to Locate Fire Hydrants

This is in reference to your memorandum regarding the request by the Triangle Volunteer Fire Department of Bayboro to use pavement markings in place of raised pavement markers to identify fire hydrants. The Traffic Engineering Branch has reviewed the request.

While the idea to use pavement markings to mark fire hydrants appears good initially, there are many factors to consider. Blue pavement marking paint does not provide the reflectivity and visibility of raised reflective pavement markers. Painting the letter "H" on the pavement is not in accordance with the MUTCD and could be confused with hospital signs. Diamond symbols on the pavement could be confusing to motorists because they are used in other states to designate special use lanes, such as those for buses or high-occupancy vehicles.

Our policy permits the use of blue raised reflective pavement markers or post-mounted blue reflectors to identify fire hydrants on the State Highway System streets and highways. This policy is attached. We feel these devices provide sufficient marking for hydrant locations and do not recommend more extensive marking at this time.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JML/WJW:wjw

Attachment

cc: Mr. N. C. Crowe, Jr., P.E.  
Mr. T. A. Peoples, P.E.  
Area Traffic Engineers