

Memorandum

Date: February 4, 2002

TO: Mr. T. A. Peoples, P.E., Manager of Traffic Engineering
Division of Highways

FROM: Michael Hill, Research Supervisor *Michael Hill*
Division of Archives and History

SUBJECT: Highway Historical Marker Program Authorizing Legislation

Ms. Claudia Speed has asked me to fax to your office the authorizing legislation that is the basis for the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program. The relevant portions of the *General Statutes*—G.S. 136-42.2, G.S. 136-42.3, and G.S. 121-4.7—are attached. The procedures for selecting the sites, purchasing the markers, and erecting and maintaining the signs are little changed since the program was established in 1935. Each year the Department of Transportation has in its budget a set amount—originally \$5000, then \$10,000, and since 1984 \$40,000—for the purchase of the signs and posts. That budget is also used for repairs requiring the service of the foundry in Ohio. The routine costs of regular maintenance are assumed by Traffic Services in the respective divisions. In a typical year at least half of the budget is spent on replacement of older or broken signs. An average of ten to twelve new signs are approved each year (at a cost of \$1225 per unit).

The operation of the program—its history and its value to the state—are further explained in the introduction to the ninth edition of the *Guide to North Carolina Highway Historical Markers*. On its publication in November two copies were sent to your office and a copy to each Division Engineer and Traffic Services Supervisor in the fourteen divisions.

We value and appreciate the cooperation we receive from the Traffic Engineering office of the Division of Highways extending back to the days of Mr. Rhudy. One of the new markers planned for placement later this year in Carthage was suggested to me by Mr. Lynch. I look forward to working with you and your staff in continuing the work on this program.

Attachments

Mr. Peoples,
Please let me know if you have other questions
or concerns.
Michael Hill