



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

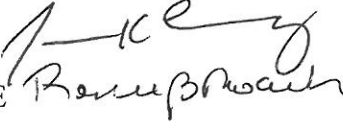
ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

December 17, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Engineers

FROM: J. Kevin Lacy, PE
Renee B. Roach, PE 

Subject: TEPL Topic # B-21, Signing and Pavement Markings
One Lane and Narrow Bridge

Several questions have developed from Division field personnel concerning the relevance of Department practices for narrow bridge signs in comparison with the *2009 edition of Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*. Previous editions (1988) of the MUTCD referenced approach pavement widths versus current MUTCD language of travel lane widths. The language was changed in Millennium MUTCD to travel lane widths. The Department's TEPL policy and standards were not updated to reflect this language change in most recent MUTCD editions.

Placement for One Lane Bridge Sign (W5-3) should be installed in accordance with MUTCD.

For Narrow Bridge Signs (W5-2), the 2009 MUTCD states "A Narrow Bridge (W-52) sign should be used in advance of any bridge or culvert having a two-way roadway clearance width of 16 to 18 feet, or any bridge or culvert having a roadway clearance less than the width of the approach travel lanes." To better align with the current MUTCD, Narrow Bridge signing for bridges 18 to 25 feet will not be required if travel lane width that is nominally the same for both the approach and bridge travel lane. However, consideration should be given to the use of a Narrow Bridge Sign (W5-2) when the clear roadway width of a bridge is 20 feet or less, where the sight distance is limited on the approach to the structure or determined by engineering judgement.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

JKL:RBR/sh

Attachment