

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS


THOMAS J. HARRELSON
SECRETARY

February 7, 1991

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: D. W. Bailey, P.E.
Chief Engineer for Operations

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

SUBJECT: School Bus Safety Signs

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has sent out a memorandum to all local school superintendents statewide (131 school districts) strongly encouraging them to ask NC DOT for the installation of a SLOW MOVING SCHOOL BUSES USE THIS HIGHWAY sign on the State Highway System indicating dangerous situations. We are beginning to receive such requests, and potentially many more may be forthcoming.

Currently, North Carolina does not have a standard sign of this type, nor is such a sign endorsed or recommended by AASHTO or the MUTCD. Special warning signs are, however, allowed by the MUTCD. We do not recommend the wholesale use of this type of sign indiscriminately. There may well be situations where this type of sign will be effective where other possible remedies are not possible or have been fruitless. Such a sign has been used on the Interstate System where 35 mph school buses mixed with 60+ mph traffic, creating an excessive speed differential. Cases where they might be applied, which may include very unusual situations where a pattern of accidents exists or abnormal operating characteristics exist, are recommended to be handled by a traffic engineering investigation prepared by the Division Traffic Engineer and reviewed by the Area Traffic Engineer on a case-by-case basis.

Please take appropriate action to notify your Division Engineers of this recommendation

JML/NCC/crs

cc: Mr. W. G. Marley, P.E.
Mr. J. T. Peacock, Jr., P.E.
Mr. N. C. Crowe, Jr., P.E.
Mr. C. C. Sessoms, Jr., P.E.