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Inter-Office Memorandum

Date: October 28, 1996
TO: Roadway Design Section Engineers
FROM: Roadway Design Engineer
John Pickering
SUBJECT: Policy Change for 3R Projects

The speed limits on Mississippi roadways were changed by Commission Order in April, 1996 (copy attached). The regulated speed on some roadways was raised from 55 MPH (88.5 km/h) to 65 MPH (104.6 km/h).

For parallel construction projects, it has been the MDOT's policy to evaluate the vertical alignment of the existing roadway to determine whether or not to regrade the existing roadway based on 3R stopping sight distance criteria. Any sections of the existing roadway that did not meet 3R controlling criteria for 55 MPH (88.5 km/h) required regrading to meet 3R criteria for 65 MPH (104.6 km/h) design speed.

Since the design speed has now been raised to 65 MPH (104.6 km/h) on 4-lane highways, a new policy has been implemented within the MDOT. The difference in the old policy and the attached new policy is as follows:

DESIGN SPEED

Instead of checking the existing lanes for 55 MPH (88.5 km/h) design speed, the existing lanes are to be checked for the posted speed, normally 65 MPH (104.6 km/h). The attached Commission Order may be used for the posted speed.

SLOPE CRITERIA

Slope criteria may change with the new policy and is differentiated by the following:

- ACTIVE PROJECTS NOT PRINTED FOR RIGHT OF WAY--
 - ◇ The slope criteria will not change.
- PROJECTS PRINTED FOR RIGHT OF WAY, AND STILL IN THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE--
 - ◇ The slopes may be modified to stay within the proposed right of way.



It is your responsibility to evaluate all such rehabilitation projects currently in the preconstruction phase and determine if any sections do not meet 3R criteria for 65 MPH or the anticipated posted speed. Any sections that do not meet criteria are to be evaluated to determine the practicality of bringing the sections into compliance.

Please submit a report of your evaluation, along with recommended action, to Mr. Irving Harris, Assistant Roadway Design Division Engineer.

It is understood this is extra work for you and squads, but a necessary one.

Should additional information or assistance be deemed necessary, please advise.

Attachments

pc: Assistant Roadway Design Division Engineer (Harris) (w/attachments)
Roadway Design Squad Leaders (w/attachments)
Traffic Engineering Division (w/attachments)
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