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INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. BILL TEMPLE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

FROM: Mr. ED COURVILLE, P.E. *EEC*
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MANAGER

DATE: July 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Recommendation for State Highway Signs

This memorandum was prepared in response to an observed need concerning the color format of state highway route marker signs and the associated supplemental signs.

The present state route marker sign used by LADOTD (shown at **figure 1**) is a green state shape on a white background with white legend. The 20 plus associated supplemental route marker plates (cardinal directions, arrows and JCT) are also green legend on a white background. In recent years though, white with black route marker plates have been used as replacements.



Figure 1

In contrast, the US route marker sign used by DOTD (shown at **figure 2**) is a white shield on a black background with black legend. The associated supplemental plates are black legend on a white background. The use of these two color patterns increases the cost of the Department's sign maintenance operations. Green ink is much more difficult to use than black ink, which results in higher fabrication costs for signs made with green ink. The 20 plus supplemental plates used with both route markers must be stocked in both color formats, which consumes valuable warehouse and sign maintenance truck space.



Figure 2

There is no written DOTD policy on the color of state route markers. However, Section 2D-11, of the MUTCD states that:

"State Route Markers are to be designed by the individual state highway department. However, the states are encouraged to adopt

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a uniform state marker. This marker should be a square plate of approximately the same size as the US route marker, and containing comparably the same size black numerals on a white area surrounded by a black background without a border. The shape of the white area is to be circular in the absence of any determination to the contrary by the individual states concerned.”



Figure 3

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Louisiana marker be changed to match national standards. The implementation of this change should begin immediately. All new state route markers and supplemental plates should be fabricated in the black-on-white format (shown at **figure 3**). Through normal district sign maintenance activities, the stock of existing signs should be exhausted in three months. The mixing of the two color formats in the field is acceptable.