



September 17, 2007

TO: Kevin Dayton Don Senn
Dave Dye Don Wagner
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Jerry Lenzi

FROM: Ted Trepanier 

SUBJECT: Upgrade of Reflective Sheeting on Stop/Slow Paddles

Over the past two years, the WSDOT Work Zone Safety Task Force has been considering the ongoing evaluation on the effectiveness of a higher grade of reflective sheeting on stop/slow paddles. The new paddles were given to South Central Region maintenance crew flaggers to evaluate and were fabricated from Type IV red sheeting and Type X fluorescent orange sheeting. The feedback received has been very positive. The signs appear to be more conspicuous in low light conditions (shadows) and provide higher levels of retroreflectivity for night work. They also appear to be more durable than the current paddle minimum Type II sheeting. The cost is \$10 to \$15 more for the new paddles.

Based on the Work Zone Safety Task Force recommendation, the Traffic Office will revise the *Sign Fabrication Manual* accordingly and all new stop/slow paddles ordered by WSDOT personnel after the revision date will be fabricated with the new sheeting material. Existing paddles with the lower grade sheeting will still be permissible for use until they have to be replaced due to wear or loss of reflectivity.

Please direct any feedback on this new policy to Ted Trepanier at 360-705-7280.

TT:vst

cc: Annie Anderson, Sign Shop
Maintenance Engineers
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