



Washington State
Department of Transportation

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Memorandum

RECEIVED

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Date: June 13, 1996

From: David K. Peach *DKP*
Phone: 360-705-7282

Subject: Caution Mode Displays on Arrow Boards

Thru: Skip Burch,
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To: S. L. Chatterton
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All users of the flashing arrow boards must use the arrow board's displays as authorized by the MUTCD, the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. In the MUTCD, illustrated in Figure VI-9, "Advance Warning Arrow Display Specifications", the caution mode is shown and described as the four corner lights flashing. This specification is worded as a "shall" and we have no authorized options.

The alternating flashing diamonds, currently operational on some of our arrow boards, are not permitted. One reason for not authorizing the use of the flashing diamonds is if bulbs burn out in the pattern the remaining shape can look like a chevron, giving drivers false indications that they must move or merge either right or left.

Please remind all crews that, as per Part VI of the MUTCD, the caution mode on the arrow board must be the four corner lights flashing.

DKP:cn

cc: Les Jacobson - NWR
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