Memorandum

To: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS
   GEOMETRIC REVIEWERS, AND
   TRAFFIC LIAISON ENGINEERS

Date: May 11, 1993

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
       DIVISION OF STATE AND LOCAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT - OFFICE OF PROJECT PLANNING & DESIGN

File No.:  

Subject: Clarification on Lighting of Sag Vertical Curves with Nonstandard Stopping Sight Distance

The language contained in the Highway Design Manual (HDM), Section 201.5, suggests that lighting may be considered when headlight sight distance is not obtainable at grade sags. It has been an informal practice to provide this lighting under these conditions without consideration of long term maintenance and operations cost or an analysis of the accident history. In cooperation with the Division of Traffic Operations, agreement has been reached on the process of handling future projects where nonstandard stopping sight distances are a factor.

The following actions will be taken to help clarify procedures:

1. A sentence will be added to HDM Section 201.5: The OPPD Coordinator and the Traffic Liaison Engineer shall be contacted to review any proposed grade sag lighting to determine if such use is appropriate.

2. The OPPD Coordinator and the Traffic Liaison Engineer shall work closely in determining whether lighting is appropriate on a case-by-case basis and shall inform the District of the decision. This decision shall be final and shall not be the subject of review by either Headquarters or the District functional units.

3. All situations having nonstandard grade sag sight distance shall have the appropriate documentation, even if there is a decision to provide lighting as a mitigation to the reduced headlight sight distance.

4. There may be cases where a District has decided to install lighting for reasons other than mitigating a non-standard mandatory feature. These decisions shall remain a District decision as per the 1988 delegations.

If you have any questions please call Alan Glen, Chief, Geometric Design and Standards Branch, at 263-1042 or Calnet 435-1042.

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