

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Statewide Design and Engineering Services Division

TO: DISTRIBUTION

DATE: May 30, 2001

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 465-2960

FAX NUMBER: 465-2460

TEXT TELEPHONE: 465-3652

FROM: Michael L. Downing, P.E. 
Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: Rumble Strip Policy

The attachment defines departmental policy for rumble strip installation. It supersedes my April 13, 1999 memo on this topic. We have learned more since then through Central Region's rumble strip project, on-going research by the department's Research Section, and from national research. Changes are intended to maintain safety benefits for automobiles, improve bicycle and wheelchair friendliness, and maintain pavement longevity.

We have not adopted some suggestions for mitigation of the negative impacts of rumble strips. This is either because they make rumble strips less effective as a safety enhancement or because there is not enough data to validate their effectiveness. We don't want to mitigate away rumble strips' reason for being – to save lives by keeping dozing, distracted, or inattentive drivers on the road.

These are not comprehensive guidelines. Issues not covered here are left to regional discretion. Additional guidance will be provided as we get more experience. As our policy stabilizes, it will be incorporated in statewide standard drawings and/or the Preconstruction Manual.

Rumble strips are the most cost-effective safety improvement we have identified. Thank you for your efforts to install them where appropriate.

Please ensure that rumble strips in your region conform to the attached policy.

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Steven Horn, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Central Region
Pat Kemp, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Southeast Region
Dave McCaleb, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Northern Region

cc: Dave Bloom, P.E., Preliminary Engineering Chief, Northern Region D&ES
Tom Brigham, Director, Division of Statewide Planning, HQ
Don Brandon, ADA Coordinator, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Labor
Judy Chapman, Planner III, Division of Statewide Planning, HQ

Duane Doerflinger, P.E., Preconstruction Standards Engineer, D&C Standards, HQ D&ES
Robert Doll, P.E., Regional Director, Southeast Region
David Eberle, P.E., Regional Director, Central Region
Al Fletcher, P.E., Traffic/Safety Operations, Federal Highway Administration
Gail Gardner, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer, Northern Region D&ES
Gary Hogins, P.E., Chief, Design & Construction Standards, HQ D&ES
Robert Laurie, Planner III, Division of Planning, HQ
Michael Lukshin, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer, Southeast Region D&ES
Kurt Smith, P.E., State Traffic Engineer, D&C Standards, HQ D&ES
Ralph Swarthout, P.E., Regional Director, Northern Region
Scott Thomas, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer, Central Region D&ES
Alex Viteri, P.E., Assistant State Traffic Engineer, D& C Standards, HQ D&ES