South Carolina Department of Transportation
Engineering Directive Memorandum

Number: 8

Primary Department: Maintenance

Referrals: S.C. Code of Law 57-3-110

Subject: Road Inspections

Daytime Inspections

All roads on the state highway system shall be inspected during daylight hours according to the following schedule:

- Interstates – monthly
- Primary Routes – once every six months
- Secondary Routes – once each year

The purpose of these inspections is to detect deficiencies that could pose a hazard to motorists or pedestrians, thus creating a risk for the Department. These inspections should be entered into the Highway Maintenance Management System (HMMS) by using the “Inspections” work activity and the “Roadway/Drainage” work description. Discrepancies should be entered into the work request module using “SCDOT Inspector” as the type of requestor.

The following are examples of the assets and roadside appurtenances that should be inspected:

- Pavements (includes pavement markings)
- Shoulders (includes sidewalk and other roadside appurtenances)
- Barriers (includes guardrails, attenuators, barrier walls, and cable barrier)
- Signs (look for missing signs)
- Vegetation (includes dead trees or overhanging limbs)
- Drainage (includes structures and ditches)

In accordance with the above, each resident maintenance engineer (RME) will review all noted deficiencies and schedule the necessary work, giving priority to all safety-related items.
Nighttime Inspections

Night inspections are primarily designed to ensure that pavement markings and roadway signs are visible, have proper reflectorization, and meet standards set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). All roads on the state highway system shall be inspected at night once each calendar year. These inspections should be entered into HMMS by using the “Inspections” work activity and the “Nighttime” work description. Discrepancies should be entered into the work request module in a similar fashion as day inspections.

Inspections should be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The inspections should be conducted at normal operating speeds.
- The inspections should be conducted using low beam headlights.
- The inspections should be conducted using a 2005 model year or newer full-size pickup.
- Signs should be viewed at the typical viewing distance for that sign.
- Signs need to be replaced if not legible to the inspector.

In accordance with the above, each RME will make a list of signs and markings that need attention and schedule the needed repairs or replacement on a priority basis.

The resident maintenance engineer will certify in writing to the district engineering administrator by January 1 of each year that all system roads within his/her county have been inspected in accordance with this directive. The district engineering administrator shall then notify the director of maintenance no later than January 10, with the deputy secretary for engineering being notified by January 15, that the inspections have been completed.

Approved By: John V. Walsh
John V. Walsh, Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Effective Date: March 3, 2011