

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Pavement Markings		NUMBER: TE-336
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Use of Horizontal Pavement Markings (M1-1 Rte. Shield)		DATE: November 17, 2005
		SUPERSEDES:
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE:	

On January 20, 2004 The Traffic Engineering Division, formerly Mobility Management requested an official interpretation pertaining to the use of a Horizontal Pavement Symbol Marking depicting the M1-1 Route Shield (photo example attached) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The aforementioned symbol markings are generally referred to as “Horizontal Signs”. After its review, the FHWA determined that the use of the Interstate Shield (M1-1) as a “Horizontal Sign” is in compliance with Section 3B.19 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). An official interpretation number and title: “3—162 Section 3B.19 Interstate Shield Pavement Marking” was issued to VDOT, thus allowing the use of the M1-1 Interstate Route Shield as a “Horizontal Sign”.

In accordance with the **Standard statement in Section 3B.19 of the 2003 MUTCD, Word and symbol markings shall be white, except as otherwise noted.** However, the official FHWA interpretation allows for the use of the colors (red & blue) on the Interstate Shield Pavement Marking Symbol. Thus, the Department’s position regarding the use of the M1-1 Horizontal Sign on VDOT maintained roadways is that “Horizontal Signs” shall be the approximate shape and color (Red, White & Blue) to correctly depict the highly recognizable Interstate Shield to road users. They may be used at the District Traffic Engineer’s discretion. When used, the M1-1, horizontal sign must be a minimum of 20 feet long and 5 feet 6 inches wide. Larger signs may be used, but caution must be exercised so that the width never takes up more that 70% of the lane width so that two wheeled vehicles may pass around these markings. This position statement is to establish statewide, uniform use of the M1-1 Horizontal Sign. It is not intended to alter the interpretation of other policies or best practice statements regarding pavement markings symbols in general.

Please note that the FHWA plans to develop a detailed design layout for the Interstate Shield Pavement Marking Symbol and add it to the Standard Highway Signs book in the near future so that agencies will have a fully uniform design for this symbol marking.

Effective immediately, the Virginia Department of Transportation has adopted the above position with respect to the use of the M1-1 Horizontal Sign on VDOT maintained roadways.

Cc: Division Administrators
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Photo Example of a M1-1 Pavement Symbol Marking

