

**DATE:** November 1, 2007

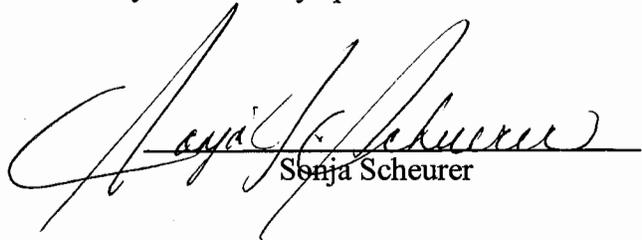
**TO:** Ed Timpf, Administrator  
Financial Operations Division  
Bureau of Finance & Administration

**FROM:** Sonja Scheurer, Administrator  
Office of Operations Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** **Reporting Requirements for FY 2008  
Operating Appropriation Act**

In accordance with Act 129, Public Acts of 2007, Section 639, we are required to report on the department's plan and schedule to place signs on state highways directing motorists to drive on the right half of the roadway. The attached document identifies the department's plan for the installation of these signs.

Please feel free to contact me at (517) 335-2258 if you have any questions or need further clarification.

  
Sonja Scheurer

cc: L Tibbits  
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M. Frierson  
J. Friend  
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**Act 129, Public Acts of 2007, Section 639 states the following:**

The department shall develop a plan and schedule to place signs on state highways that direct motorists to drive on the right half of the roadway in accordance with section 634 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.634. The plan and schedule shall be submitted to the senate and house appropriations committees, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director by November 1, 2007.

**Michigan Vehicle Code (Excerpt)**

**Act 300, Public Acts of 1949, MCL 257.634 states the following:**

**Driving on right half of roadway; exceptions; driving on roadway having 2 or more lanes for travel in 1 direction; traveling on freeway having 3 or more lanes for travel in same direction; ordinance regulating same subject matter prohibited; violation as civil infraction.**

(1) Upon each roadway of sufficient width, the driver of a vehicle shall drive the vehicle upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(a) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing that movement.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair or when an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway. A driver who is driving on the left half of a roadway under this subdivision shall yield the right-of-way to an oncoming vehicle traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the roadway.

(c) When a vehicle operated by a state agency or a local authority or an agent of a state agency or local authority is engaged in work on the roadway.

(d) Upon a roadway divided into 3 marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable on the roadway.

(2) Upon a roadway having 2 or more lanes for travel in 1 direction, the driver of a vehicle shall drive the vehicle in the extreme right-hand lane available for travel except as otherwise provided in this section. However, the driver of a vehicle may drive the vehicle in any lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction of travel when the lanes are occupied by vehicles moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic and in any left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction of travel for a reasonable distance before making a left turn.

(3) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a vehicle traveling in the appropriate direction from traveling in any lane of a freeway having 3 or more lanes for travel in the same direction. However, a city, village, township, or county may not enact an ordinance which regulates the same subject matter as any provision of this subsection. The driver of a truck with a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds, a truck tractor, or a combination of a vehicle and trailer or semitrailer shall drive the vehicle or combination of vehicles only in either of the 2 lanes farthest to the right, except for a reasonable distance when making a left

turn or where a special hazard exists that requires the use of an alternative lane for safety reasons.

(4) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

### **Driving on the Right Side of the Roadway Program**

Prior to the passing of Public Act 345 of 2006, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) met with the Michigan State Police (MSP) to discuss the locations of concern in regard to driving on the right side of the roadway, methods of enforcement through use of traffic control devices, and where such efforts should be concentrated in accordance to MCL 257.634. Michigan law allows motorists to legally travel and pass in any lane in their direction on roadways having two or more lanes in one direction of travel if traffic volumes are continuous. This also applies to freeway routes. Due to these permissive situations, the "Slower Traffic Keep Right" sign was determined by MDOT and MSP as the appropriate sign for use on rural two-lane freeways.

On October 6, 2005, the use of "Slower Traffic Keep Right" signs on rural two-lane freeways was adopted by MDOT in the Freeway Signing, Design, Placement, and Application Guidelines. The guidelines require the placement of the sign as part of the post interchange sign sequence for rural two-lane freeways outside of incorporated municipalities. Under normal signing conditions the "Slower Traffic Keep Right" would be placed 3,500 feet from the end of the interchange on-ramp.

Implementation of this effort has commenced immediately with adjustments made to the FY 2006 Freeway Signing Program and will continue throughout the five-year program and will be completed by contractors. For the locations not included in the five-year program, the work will be completed either by MDOT or a contractor.

In September 2007, MDOT hired University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) to conduct a study on driver behavior to determine the impact of the "Slower Traffic Keep Right" sign in comparison to other sign messages. Through the use of video detection and speed counters UMTRI will determine vehicle speed and frequency of lane changes along two test corridors on I-96 East and West of Lansing. The comparison will be conducted using the standard "Slower Traffic Keep Right" sign and a proposed "Keep Right - Pass Left - It's the Law" sign design. The results of the study will guide MDOT to determine which sign message to use in directing motorists to drive on the right half of the roadway in accordance with Section 634 of the Michigan Vehicle Code.