MDOT
Michigan Department of Transportation

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2006

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 2006-2007 Operating Appropriation Act**

In accordance with Act 345, Public Acts of 2006, Section 640, we are required to report on the department's plan and schedule to place signs on state highways directing motorist to yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles. The attached document identifies the department's plan and schedule 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. Hank
M. Frierson
J. Kraus
File

Act 345, Public Acts of 2006, Section 640 states the following:

The department shall develop a plan and schedule to place signs on state highways that direct motorist to yield the right-of-way to approaching emergency vehicles in accordance with section 653 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.653. 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, 2006.

Michigan Vehicle Code (Excerpt)
Act 300, Public Acts of 1949, MCL 257.653 states the following:

Immediate approach of authorized emergency vehicle; duty of driver of another vehicle; duty of streetcar operator; violation as civil infraction.
(1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with not less than 1 lighted flashing, rotating, or oscillating lamp exhibiting a red or blue light visible under normal atmospheric condition from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell:
(a) The driver of another vehicle shall yield the right of way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, clear of an intersection, and shall stop and remain in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.
(b) The operator of a streetcar shall immediately stop the car, clear of an intersection, and shall keep it in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.
(2) This section does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the highway.
(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

Emergency Vehicle Signing Program

Prior to the passing of Public Act 345 of 2006 the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with the Michigan State Police (MSP) identified 21 statewide locations for the installation of "Michigan Law ... Move Over" signs. The strategy used to determine the proposed 21 locations was to inform the maximum number of motorists possible by concentrating at major border crossings and at key in-state decision points. As indicated by the locations provided in the attachment this strategy concentrated signing solely on freeways.

In discussions with the MSP, the following sign message was agreed upon (photo of sign is shown below):

MICHIGAN LAW
MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN
FOR STOPPED
EMERGENCY VEHICLES

The cost for the fabrication and installation of the twenty-one signs was estimated at $120,000. Installation of all the signs was completed October 6, 2006.

Locations of the "Michigan Law . . . Move Over" Signs

1. EB I-94 @ the Indiana Border
2. NB US-31 @ the Indiana Border
3. NB US-131 @ the Indiana Border
4. NB I-69 @ the Indiana Border
5. NB US-127 @ the Ohio Border
6. NB US-23 @ the Ohio Border
7. NB US-24 @ the Ohio Border
8. NB I-75 @ the Ohio Border
9. SB I-75 @ the Ambassador Bridge
10. WB I-94 @ Port Huron
11. WB I-69 @ Port Huron
12. NB US-131 North of Grand Rapids
13. NB US-31 @ Grand Haven
14. SB US-31 North of Muskegon
15. SB I-75 North of Grayling
16. SB US-131 South of Cadillac
17. NB US-127 North of Clare
18. NB I-75 @ Standish
19. SB US-31 @ Ludington
20. SB I-75 @ South of Mackinac Bridge
21. SB I-75 @ Sault Ste Marie