STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

March 17, 2020

To: NCSITE Traffic Engineering Council

From: Jim Dunlop, for Congestion Management and MSTA

Re: Congestion Management and MSTA Procedures - Traffic Impact Studies

As the CV-19 outbreak continues to wreak havoc with everyday life, Congestion Management is identifying procedures and "work-arounds" for continuing our work, and in particular continuing to assist District Engineer's in the review and approval of Traffic Impact Analyses (TIAs) for developments and schools.

It's likely that we will be primarily working remotely in the next few days, however communication will continue to be open between CMS/MSTA staff, Districts and the private sector. Email is likely to be the best means of communication, although some will be able to forward our office phones to other locations.

Regarding TIAs and school studies, **no traffic counts should be made for the near future and should not be used if performed after about March 10, 2020**. The traffic volumes and patterns have drastically changed with schools and many businesses closed, and others turning toward teleworking.

This does not mean that TIAs and school studies will not be accepted. Previous traffic counts can be used. While we typically prefer counts taken within the past year, the *Policy on Street and Driveway Access to North Carolina Highways* (aka the Driveway Manual) says:

> AT SOME INTERSECTIONS, COUNTS OLDER THAN ONE YEAR MAY BE USED IF ADJUSTED TO CURRENT YEAR. THE USE OF THESE OLDER COUNTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BY THE NCDOT.

We hope that all Districts and Municipalities will be lenient in accepting older data, with the appropriate adjustments taken. Take care in noting the date, and if any conditions have changed since the counts were taken.

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We have many counts taken by NCDOT online at the following website:
https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Volume-Class.aspx

These counts cover the period from 2016-present. We recently purged older counts (2009-2016) from being available on the web page but are working to resurrect them. I have a list of what had been collected. Unfortunately, there is not a guarantee that we can find them in our archives. We will post that list as soon as we can on the Congestion Management webpage:
https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Congestion-Management.aspx

We also have growth rates from the Statewide Travel Demand Model that will help in adjusting counts to current year. Those will have to be pulled individually for the time being. As with everything else we do, we will try to make it more "automatic" to get these values, but it will take some time to make this happen. My suggestion in the meantime is to balance older traffic counts to match newer ones if you have them available.

If you are scoping a new TIA for a development driveway permit or a school study, your first contact will be with the District Engineer's office.

If you have questions, or need assistance for traffic analysis or review, please contact your Congestion Management regional engineer or MSTA engineer:

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