Florida Department of Transportation

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Engineering and Operations Memorandum 16-03

DATE: November 16, 2016

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Traffic Operations Engineers

FROM: Courtney Drummond, Chief Engineer

COPIES: Brian Blanchard, Tom Byron, Tim Lattner, David Sadler, Rudy Powell, Trey Tillander, Mark Wilson, District Secretaries

SUBJECT: Highway Advisory Radio Transition

This memo provides guidance for the future implementation and transition of the Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) systems. In review of the intent of the HAR System as an advisory tool to the public, the Department intends to continue the use of this type of system for facilities that warrant such a tool. Facilities such as Rural Interstate, Turnpike, predetermined evacuation routes, and Hard Shoulder Running facilities are examples of where the HAR Systems provides an additional tool to inform the public of traffic and safety related issues. It is the intent that districts will evaluate their existing HAR systems and submit a recommendation to the Chief Engineer for approval to discontinue operations of any system. It is the intent that new installations will be approved by the Chief Engineer.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements shall be followed for future design, construction, and maintenance contracts:

- New HAR installations must be approved by the Chief Engineer.
- On existing HAR systems where it is the intent to discontinue the HAR system on a facility, maintain existing HAR transmitters for their useful life then remove. *
- On HAR systems slated for upgrade, approval shall be obtained from the Chief Engineer.
- On HAR Systems that are approved by the Chief Engineer to be discontinued, do not replace HAR transmitters if knocked down unless approved by the Chief Engineer. *
- On HAR Systems that are approved to be discontinued, do not replace HAR transmitter and beacon signs if all are impacted by construction (i.e., road widening, etc.) unless approved by the Chief Engineer. *

* Note that existing HAR Systems may be approved by the Chief Engineer to remain as a system rather than require individual transmitter approvals.

BACKGROUND

At the April 16, 2014 Executive Workshop, a decision was made to temporarily stop new HAR installation until research could be performed to assess the future viability of HAR in Florida. The University of Central Florida conducted the research project (BDV24-977-11) and the final report was published in February 2016. Based on the data and results of this research, input from the District Traffic Operations Engineers, and input from the Directors of Transportation Operations, the above requirements were developed.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the above requirements will be made effective by changing Section 687 of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction to a Developmental Specification and by removing Section 7.5.4.2 of the Plans Preparation Manual on the next regularly scheduled revision of these documents. Pay items will continue to be available for maintenance and repair/replacement of HAR in accordance with the above requirements.

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