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Administrative Announcement

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation

TO: All District Engineers and Division Heads March 23, 1990

SUBJECT: Minute Order No. 89979

Attached is Minute Order No. 89979 dated February 27, 1990.

Byron C. Blaschke, P.E.
Deputy Engineer-Director

WHEREAS, the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation is required, by Federal mandate and Administrative Directive, to keep accurate records on the Designated Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Reference Marker Location System, currently being implemented by the Department, uses the posted guide sign and a statewide reference marker to identify each highway in the records, which dictates that the posted sign indicate the designated highway route only; and

WHEREAS, at various locations throughout the State of Texas, there are highways designated on one official highway system that have been identified, with erected guide markers, as numbered routes on another official highway system; and

WHEREAS, in various cities and towns in the State of Texas, there are designated State Highway Loops and State Highway Spurs that have been identified, with erected guide markers, as Business Routes of the through highway that bypassed that city or town; and

WHEREAS, these Business Routes, even though they may have been signed as such for a number of years, are not an officially designated highway system and cannot be recorded as such; and

WHEREAS, these signed Business Routes are perceived as a legitimate system of highways by the local business community; and

WHEREAS, these Business Routes do in fact constitute a desirable highway system and provide a valuable service to the traveling public, by notifying them where they may leave their travel route for supplies and return to continue their journey, as well as benefit the economy of the city or town involved;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that a subdivision of the State Highway System be created, classified as Business Route, separate from, but equal to, State Highway Loop and State Highway Spur; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these Business Routes be designated in one of the following catagories:

* Off Interstate Highway
* Off United States Highway
* Off State Highway
* Off Farm or Ranch to Market Road,

Based on the through highway it is connected to, and that this designation shall include the number of the through highway and a letter suffix to identify all the separate locations along a common through highway; and the suffix sequence A to Z will follow the direction of the Reference Marker System from low to high numbers; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these Business Routes be marked using current signing practices until uniform Statewide Standards can be established, however, current signs and future standards should contain three elements:

* The Word Business
* The Number and Shield Shape of the Through Route, and
* The Letter Suffix

And shall not contain the Highway System identification of the through route such as IH, US, SH, FM, or RM; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Engineer-Director proceed in the most feasible manner to implement the policy that all highways be signed with erected guide markers that indicate their officially Designated Highway System and Number only; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Engineer-Director examine each case where current guide markers do not reflect the actual Designated Highway System and Number, and determine whether the highway should be resigned to match its current designation or be submitted to this Commission for redesignation to the Highway System indicated on its existing signs; and that this determination shall be made after consultation with local officials through the District Offices involved, and shall reflect the best interest of the Department and the Public; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all changes in signing and designation be accomplished in one hundred twenty (120) days or less, to allow for the assignment and erection of necessary reference markers before established deadlines.

Submitted by

(Title) State Transportation Planning Engineer

Approved

Examined and recommended by:

Deputy Director

Engineer-Director

Minute Number 89979

Date Passed FEB 27 90