

Of A Motorist

Pavement Markings Play Important Part In Life

Special To The Post

RALEIGH - When you were 16 years of age you knew the rules of the road backwards and forwards.

For instance, you could reel off the reason for having yellow and white pavement markings on our highways and why some were broken lines and others were solid lines.

That's because you had to in order to pass the test for your driver's license.

Several years have passed since you first learned to drive, yet you continue to practice those same rules of the road. The only difference is you have subconsciously stored them away instead of keeping such facts and figures on the tip of your tongue.

That's fine but it never hurts to refresh one's memory.

As for pavement markings in North Carolina, you'll find them on the majority of the state's 56,000 miles of paved highways. They play a significant role in controlling the flow of traffic.

In some cases, pavement markings are used to supplement traffic signs and signals. In other instances, they are used along to convey regulations and warnings not clearly understandable through signs and signals. Pavement markings guide the motorist without diverting his or her attention from the roadway.

North Carolina Department of Transportation's Manager of Traffic Engineering Harold C. Rhudy said, "Can you imagine our streets and highways without pavement markings?"

It's ridiculous to even consider it."

"Pavement markings serve a very definite purpose. They tell the motorist a story...when, where and what to do. If we did not have markings, traveling would be mass confusion not to mention extremely hazardous," Rhudy added.

Generally, pavement markings in North Carolina are either yellow or white. These colors are used because they are more highly visible, especially at night than other colors.

The broken yellow lines show the center of the road and separate traffic going in opposite directions. Broken white lines are used to separate traffic on roads having two or more lanes going in the same directions.

A solid yellow line in a lane means passing is not permitted. If there are two solid yellow lines, passing is not allowed in either direction. Passing is permitted on roads with a single, broken yellow or white line.

In addition to center lines and lane lines, pavement markings include edge lines, stop bars, crosswalks, arrows, school zones and railroad crossings.

State Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw commented, "When you stop and think about pavement markings and the part they play in the lives of our traveling public, it is obvious how important and necessary they are. Without them our highways would not be safe. Nothing takes priority over the effort to save human lives."

"It is with this aspect foremost in our minds that we continue to maintain and improve the markings on our state's highway system," the transportation secretary said.

Pavement markings on North Carolina's highways are maintained or improved with state maintenance and federal-aid safety funds. Last year, state funds totaling more than six million dollars provided for maintenance crews to paint 56,000 miles of center, lane and edge lines. In addition stop bars, crosswalks, arrows and school zones were painted where needed.

NCCCCSGA Will

Hold Its Spring

Conference

The NCCCCSGA will hold its Spring Conference at the Ramada Inn - Downtown (formally the Downtowners) in Winston-Salem April 30 through May 3, 1980.

The State Organization, representing the more than 500,000 students enrolled in North Carolina's 58 Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, and Technical Institutes, will celebrate its 10-year anniversary at this conference.

Some 300 delegates from across the state are expected to participate in the organization's many committees, workshops, and forums.

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