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## A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ANALYSIS

OF HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS
IN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC

Report TSD-SS-190-71


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[^0]
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## INTRODUCTION

The Highway Safety Act of 1966 was enacted by the Congress of the United States in order to promote highway safety programs. Subsequently, various Highway Safety Standards were developed to assure the orderly implementation of the Act.

Highway Safety Standard 4.4.9, Identification and Surveillance of Accident Locations, is one of those standards. The purpose of Standard 4.4 .9 is to identify specific locations or sections of streets and highways which have high or potentially high accident experience as a basis for establishing priorities for improvement, selective enforcement or other operational practices that will eliminate or reduce accidents and potential hazards at the location so identified.

The State of Michigan carries out a program of this type on the State trunkline system; however, many of the State's city and county agencies lack the financial and technical prerequisites necessary to pursue similar programs with similarly defined objectives. To insure that this Highway Safety Standard is met and to improve the overall evaluation of the accident picture in Michigan, the Michigan Department of State Highways requested and received through the Office of Highway Safety Planning in the Depart-
ment of State Police a federally funded project entitled "Traffic Accident Analysis for Cities and Counties". The intent of this new project is to provide a special traffic engineering field service for cities and counties. In cooperation with participating cities and counties, the proposed service under the direction of Department personnel will make a traffic engineering evaluation of the factors causing traffic accidents and will recommend engineering corrections to those conditions which may be contributing to accidents.

SCOPE

Highway engineers have very little influence on changing or correcting the motorist's ability to drive (driver education, experience and enforcement) or on the condition of the vehicle (manufacturer's design and owner responsibility). They have, however, the responsibility to construct, operate and maintain the roadway environment within feasible economic and design limits so that the driver and vehicle can function safely within the environment.

The intent of the "Traffic Accident Analysis for Cities and Counties" program is to improve traffic safety on all Michigan streets and roads by expanding the traffic engineering
evaluation of factors causing accidents. This is accomplished by conducting a traffic accident analysis of locations which experience $h i g h$ accident frequencies and then summarizing recommendations for corrective action.

## STUDY PROCEDURES

The study procedures for the subject project involve several distinct phases. They may be described as follows: basic data collection, identifying and locating high accident locations, a traffic engineering analysis of accidents, technical evaluation of previously compiled facts and consequent recommendations for fmprovements.

Since a portion of the data collection phase involves accident records and reports and since the Michigan Department of State Police is responsible for keeping all accident records in Michigan, the task of identifying and locating high accident locations in the City of Dowagiac (and providing an inventory of those locations) was designated as State Police responsibility. Because of the fact that an automated system of locating accidents has not yet been established on a statewide basis, the high accident locations (city streets only) for the City of Dowagiac were determined by manually extracting and compiling those locations with the highest number of accidents from the city accident reports for the
study period 1966 through 1970. From this 1ist the 17 highest accident locations were selected. Upon completion of this portion of data collection, the bepartment of State Police documented and transmitted to the Traffic and Safety Division of the Department of State Highways a list, along with the accident reports, of the high accident locations for the City of Dowagiac.

The second portion of the data collection phase which is the responsibility of the Department of State Highways, involves preparation of collision diagrams and, if necessary, physical condition diagrams and traffic counts for selected locations.

The accident analysis and traffic engineering evaluation phases involve the detailed analysis of the summarized facts and field data and prescribing the proper corrective treatment.

## STUDY AREA

The City of Dowagiac is located in the southwestern portion of the state in the northwest quarter of Cass County (Figure 1). This part of the state being basically agricultural provides the community with an abundance of farm produce and orchard fruits.

Dowagiac was founded in 1848 as a shipping center by the Michigan Central Railroad. This enabled the area farmers and fruit growers to sell their produce to the larger cities

FIGURE 1


STUDY AREA
general highway map CASS COUNTY

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
oepartment of state highways
HIGHWAY PLANNING SURVEY

along the railroad. The city has grown and prospered ever since. New industry has developed and modern farming methods have caused agricultural production to increase greatly.

The population of the City of Dowagiac according to the 1970 census was 6,583 . This is a decrease of $8.6 \%$ over the 1960 census. During this same period the state's population increased $13.4 \%$. Although the City of Dowagiac's population decreased during the period 1960-1970, population projections predicted (Figure 2) that the City of Dowagiac would grow at a steady rate.

The City of Dowagiac is serviced by two state trunklines, M-62 and M-51 and by the Penn Central Railroad. The railroad facilities adequately maintain the freight traffic generated by the local factories and area farms. They also hande passenger service to the larger metropolitan areas of Niles and Kalamazoo.

According to the Nineteenth Annual Progress Report, as compiled by the Local Government Division of the Michigan Department of State Highways, the City of Dowagiac has a street system made up of 2.62 miles of state trunkline, 10.37 miles of major city streets and 23.50 miles of local city streets for a total of 36.29 miles of roadway within the city limits. A map of this street system is shown in Figure 3.

## POPULATION PROJECTION

CITY OF DOWAGIAC $1940-2000$


$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { STATE OF MICHIGAN } \\
\text { Population in Millions }
\end{gathered}
$$

FIGURE 3
DOWAGIAC
CASS COUNTY

STREET SYSTEMS
ACT 51 public Acts 1951


## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

The solution of the traffic accident problem in any communty requires, first of all, a definite and complete understanding of all the elements which make up the problem. Accidents don't just happen. They result from a failure in the driver-road-vehicle environment. Compared to the millions of vehicle miles traveled, accidents are very rare events. However, they are the only means presently available to indicate a failure in the driver-road-vehicle environment. Consequently, a detailed accident analysis is necessary before any effective accident reduction or prevention program can be developed. This analysis will provide a general outine of the traffic accident problem and indicate areas that require spectal attention.

The traffic engineering analysis began when the State Police, after compiling the accident data for the city streets in Dowagiac, transmitted to the Michigan Department of State Highways the 17 high accident locations in the city (Figure 4). Additional statistical information was collected on the reported traffic accidents in the City of Dowagiac and on the vehicle registrations in Cass County. Table 1 (see p. 14), which contains this information, shows there were a total of 716 accidents on Dowagiac's city streets during the study period 1966 through 1970 for an average of 143 accidents per year. This total

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SPOTMAP F 0 R

HIGHACCIDENT
LOCATIONS
Paichigan department of state highways
FIGURE 4
includes only accidents occurring on city streets and not those on state trunklines. Reported accidenta in the City of Dowagiac increased steadily between the years 1966 and 1969 with the greatest increase occurring between 1967 and 1968. However, in 1970 there was a noticeable decrease in reported traffic accidents. The 17 high accident locations on city streets accounted for 155 of the total reported accidents in the city during the five-year study period. This figure is $21.6 \%$ of the reported accidents. It would appear from these figures that the greatest portion of the City of Dowagiac's reported accidents have not occurred at specific locations but are scattered throughout the entire city.

To further document the various facts present at the 17 high accident locations, the following tables were prepared to tabulate and chart specific data.
2. Annual Accident Summary
3. Monthly and Daily Accident Occurrence
4. Daily and Hourly Accident Occurrence
5. Age of Drivers Involved in Accidents
6. Residence of Drivers Involved in Accidents
7. Weather Conditions at the Scene of Accidents
8. Pavement Conditions at the Scene of Accidents

The information summarized in Table 2 , page 15 , shows that 41 of the 155 accidents occurring at the 17 high accident locations resulted in personal injury and 112 resulted in property damage. There were two fatal accidents during
the study period with both of them involving car-train co11isions.

Table 3 , page 16 , shows that the peak accident month was December accounting for $14 \%$ of the accidents. It also shows that Friday was the peak accident day with Friday and Saturday accounting for $44.9 \%$ of the total accidents.

The figures in Table 4, page 17, indicate that the peak accident hour occurred between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. This hour, together with the hours $1: 00$ p.m. to $2: 00$ p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. accounted for $28.8 \%$ of the accidents.

The information contained in Table 6, page 18, shows that $75.9 \%$ of the drivers involved in the accidents at the study locations were local residents. Table 7, page 19 , shows that $76.3 \%$ of the accidents occurred when the weather was generally clear. As shown in Table 8 , page $19,47.4 \%$ of the accidents occurred when the pavement was dry, $30.8 \%$ when the pavement was wet and $21.8 \%$ when it was either snowy or icy.

The accident information summarized in Tables 2 through 8 may yield some basic information needed by those agencies interested in highway safety from the standpoint of driver education, law enforcement and street patrol activities.

In the analysis of the traffic accident problem on the City of Dowagiac's street system, the contributing factors were examined from the viewpoint of a highway traffic engineer with special attention focused on the effect which the highway
environment may have had on the accident. At each high accident location, individual accident reports were reviewed in detail and the accident facts were tabulated and grouped in various tables. It was apparent that no unusually high concentration of accidents existed at any one location. In fact, the highest total at any one location for the fiveyear study period was 16 accidents.

The first step in the traffic engineering analysis phase of Dowagiac's high accident locations was the preparation of collision diagrams. At each location accidents were grouped in order to locate the accident in relation to the intersection, approaches to the intersection or section of roadway. The various methods of accident analysis are intended to probe into the detailed aspects of the accidents to determine the reasons for their occurrence.

The analysis of the 17 high accident locations showed that the first parking stalls from the intersections in many cases abuted the crosswalks. According to the Michigan Vehicle Code, Section 257.674 of Act 300 , Public Acts of 1949 as amended (MSA 9.2374), "No person shall park a vehicle, except where necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic control device, within 20 ft of a crosswalk, or if none, then within 15 ft of the intersection of property lines at an intersection of highways." It is

Table 1
REPORTED TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC

| Year | Total | City |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Streets | Property <br> Damage | Injury | Fatal | Persons <br> Injured |  |  |  |
| 1966 | 141 | 91 | 71 | 67 | 2 | 107 | 3 |
| 1967 | 195 | 117 | 131 | 64 | 0 | 99 | 0 |
| 1968 | 303 | 159 | 240 | 63 | 0 | 96 | 0 |
| 1969 | 353 | 181 | 280 | 72 | 1 | 101 | 1 |
| 1970 | 353 | 168 | 284 | 69 | 0 | 93 | 0 |


| Year | GOMPARISON OF A Dowagiac City Streets | EENT FREQUEN Cass County Roads | Total Accidents State of Mich. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1966 | 91 | 515 | 302,880 |
| 1967 | 117 | 507 | 299,004 |
| 1968 | 159 | 606 | 305,495 |
| 1969 | 181 | 619 | 331,223 |
| 1970 | 168 | 628 | 313,715 |

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR THE ABOVE TOTALS

| $1966-67$ | 28.6 | -1.6 | -1.3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1967-68$ | 36.1 | 19.52 | 2.2 |
| $1968-69$ | 14.1 | 2.14 | 8.4 |
| $1969-70$ | -7.2 | 1.45 | -5.58 |

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS IN CASS COUNTY

| Year | Pass. | Comm. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Farm } \\ \text { Veh1cle } \end{gathered}$ | Tradler | $\begin{gathered} \text { Trailer } \\ \text { Coach } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Motor } \\ & \text { Cycle } \end{aligned}$ | Muntr cipal | Total Plates |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1966 | 17,261 | 3,627 | 478 | 2,026 | 322 | 425 | 254 | 24,393 |
| 1967 | 17,502 | 3,531 | 458 | 2,036 | 329 | 477 | 23 | 24,356 |
| 1968 | 18,048 | 4,047 | 490 | 2,270 | 426 | 573 | 55 | 25,909 |
| 1969 | 18,789 | 4,797 | - | 2,877 | - | 724 | 45 | 27,232 |
| 1970 | 19,065 | 5,192 | - | 3,082 | - | 946 | 36 | 28,321 |

Table 2

ANNUAL ACCIDENT SUMMARY
SEVENTEEN HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC

Period Studted: 1966 through 1970

| Accident Type | Day | Night | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fatal Accident | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Personal Injury Acco | 22 | 19 | 41 |
| Property Damage Acc | 84 | 28 | 112 |
| Total | 108 | 47 | 155 |


| Month | Fatal |  | Injury |  | Prope Damage |  | Sub. Total |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Day | Night | Day | Night | Day | Night | Day | Night |  |
| January |  |  | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| February |  |  |  | 1 | 13 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| March | 1 |  |  | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| April |  |  | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| May |  |  | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| June |  |  | 2 | 1 | 1. | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| July |  |  | 2 |  | 9 | 1 | 11. | 1 | 12 |
| August | 1 |  | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| September |  |  | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| October |  |  | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| November |  |  | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| December |  |  | 3 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 22 |
| S. Total | 2 | 0 | 22 | 19 | 84 | 28 | 108 | 47 | 155 |
| Total | 2 |  | 41 |  | 112 |  | 155 |  |  |

## ACCIDENT ANALYSIS

Table 3

MON'HLY AND DALLY ACCIDENT OCCURRENGE

SEVENTEEN HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN THE CTTY OF DOWAGIAC

Pexiod Studied: 1966 through 1970

| Month | Day of the Week |  |  |  |  |  |  | Monthly Total | Of Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |  |  |
| January | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 9.0 |
| February | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1. | 2 | 9 | 1 | 18 | 12.2 |
| March |  | 2 |  | 1. | 6 | 3 |  | 12 | 7.7 |
| April | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |  | 2 |  | 9 | 5.8 |
| May |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |  | 1 | 8 | 5.1 |
| June |  |  |  |  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3.2 |
| July |  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 7.7 |
| August | 2 |  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 7.0 |
| September | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 |  | 14 | 9.0 |
| October | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 10.2 |
| November | 2 |  | 5 |  | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 9.0 |
| December | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 14.1 |
| Day | 17 | 16 | 21 | 17 | 37 | 32 | 15 | 155 | 100.0 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \% \text { of } \\ & \text { Total } \end{aligned}$ | 10.9 | 10.2 | 13.5 | 10.9 | 23.7 | 21.2 | 9.6 | 100.0 |  |

Peak Accident Day: Friday
Peak Accident Month: December

Table 4
DAILY AND HOURLY ACCIDENT OCCURRENCE
SEVENTEEN HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS TN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC
Period Studied: 1966 through 1970

| Hour | Day of the week |  |  |  |  |  |  | Hour Total | $\begin{array}{r} \% \text { of } \\ \text { Total } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |  |  |
| 12-1 a.m. |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2.6 |
| 1-2 a.m. |  |  | 2 |  | 2 | 1 |  | 5 | 3.2 |
| 2-3 a.m. |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1.4 |
| 3-4 a.m. |  |  | 1 |  |  | 3 |  | 4 | 2.6 |
| 4-5 a.m. |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 | 1.4 |
| 5-6 a.m. |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | . 7 |
| 6-7 a.m. |  | 1. | 2 | 2 |  |  |  | 5 | 3.2 |
| 7-8 a.m. |  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |  | 6 | 3.9 |
| 8-9 a.m. | 2 |  |  | 2 | 3 | 2 |  | 9 | 5.8 |
| 9-10 a.m. |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 3 | 2.0 |
| 10-11 a.m. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 7.0 |
| 11-12 a.m. | 1 | 1 |  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5.1 |
| 12-1 p.m. | 1 |  | 2 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3.9 |
| $\underline{1-2 ~ p . m . ~}$ | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 9.6 |
| 2-3 p.m. | 2 |  | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |  | 10 | 6.4 |
| 3-4 p.m. | 3 |  | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |  | 12 | 7.7 |
| 4-5 p.m. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 11.5 |
| 5-6 p.m. | 1 | 1 | 2 |  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 6.4 |
| 6-7 p.m. | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 4 |  | 7 | 4.5 |
| 7-8 p.m. |  | 2 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 3 | 2.0 |
| 8-9 p.m. |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | . 7 |
| 9-10 P.m. |  |  |  | 2 | 2 |  |  | 4 | 2.6 |
| 10-11 p.m. |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 2 | 4 | 2.6 |
| 11-12 p.m. | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 5 | 3.2 |
| Not Stated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Day Total | 17 | 16 | 21 | 17 | 37 | 32 | 15 | 155 | 100.0 |
| \% of Total | 10.9 | 10.2 | 13.5 | 10.9 | 23.7 | 21.2 | 9.6 | 100.0 |  |

Peak Accident Hour: $\frac{4-5 p . m \text {. }}{}$
Peak Accident Day: Friday

Table 5
AGE OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS
SEVENTEEN HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN THE CITY OF DOWAGTAC
Period Studied: 1966 through 1970

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Age } \\ & \text { Group } \end{aligned}$ | Number of Drivers Involved in |  |  |  | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fatal | Injury | $\begin{gathered} \text { Property } \\ \text { Damage } \end{gathered}$ | Total |  |
| Under 16 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16-19 |  | 11 | 35 | 46 | 16.8 |
| 20-24 | 1 | 15 | 34 | 50 | 18.2 |
| 25-34 |  | 11 | 51 | 62 | 23.0 |
| $35-44$ |  | 9 | 18 | 27 | 9.9 |
| 45-54 |  | 10 | 32 | 42 | 15.3 |
| 55-64 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 27 | 9.9 |
| 65-74 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 16 | 5.8 |
| 75 \& Oved |  |  | 3 | 3 | 1.1 |
| Not Stated |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 4 | 65 | 204 | 273 | 100.0 |

Table 6
RESIDENCE OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

| Residence | Number of Drivers Involved in |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fatal | Injury | Property <br> Damage | Total |  |
| Local |  | 50 | 158 | 208 | 75.9 |
| Michigan | 4 | 11 |  | 39 | 54 |
| Out of State |  | 4 |  | 7 | 11 |
| Not Stated |  |  |  |  | 20.1 |
| TOTAL | 4 | 65 | 204 | 273 | 4.0 |

Table 7
WEATHER CONDITIONS AT SCENE OF ACCIDENTS
SEVENTEEN IIGH ACCTDFNT LOCA'TONS LN THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC
Period Studied: 1966 through 1970

| Weather | Severity of Accident |  |  |  | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fatal | Injury | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Property } \\ \text { Damage }\end{array}$ | Total |  |
| Clear or Cloudy | 1 | 33 | 84 | 118 | 76.3 |
| Rain |  | 6 | 12 | 18 | 11.5 |
| Fog |  |  |  |  |  |
| Snow or Sleet | 1 |  |  | 16 | 19 |$] 12.2$.

Table 8
PAVEMENT CONDITIONS AT SCENE OF ACCIDENTS

| Pavement | Severity of Accident |  |  |  | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fatal | Injury | Property |  |  |
| Damage | Total |  |  |  |  |
| Dry | 1 | 25 | 47 | 73 | 47.4 |
| Wet | 1 | 13 | 34 | 48 | 30.8 |
| Snowy/Icy |  | 3 | 31 | 34 | 21.8 |
| Icy |  |  |  |  |  |
| Not Stated |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 2 | 41 | 112 | 155 | 100.0 |

strongly recommended that the Vehicle Code Law concerning crosswalks be implemented as soon as possible.

This analysis also showed that the ratio of accidents occurring on wet pavement as compared to accidents occurring on dry pavement was extremely high ( $65 \%$, see Table 8). This indicates that there might be a citywide problem of slippery-when-wet pavement conditions. This analysis further showed that in many cases trees partially or fully obscured from view existing traffic control devices. It is recommended that a citywide maintenance program be initiated by the city so that this problem can be eliminated.

After the analysis was completed, it was apparent that no recommendations would be feasible for 7 of the 17 locations. There were no accident patterns at these seven locations and no present or potential serious driving hazards that could be eliminated or controlled by traffic engineering. Consequently, this report will discuss in detail only the remaining ten locations. The collision diagrams and pictures for each of these will be found on the page following the discussion. The collision diagrams and pictures for the remaining seven locations are found in Appendix I.

## LOCATION 1 COMMERCIAL STREET AT PENNSYLVANIA STREET

This location is a four-legged right-angle intersection located in the Central Business District of Dowagiac. Commercial Street is the through street and Pennsylvania Street the stop street. Both roadways have a 42 ft wide bituminous pavement with curb on both sides. There are no centerline markings on either street in the vicinity of the intersection. Metered parking is allowed on both sides of commercial and Pennsylvania Streets. Traffic control consists of a 24 in . stop sign for each direction of traffic on Pennsylvania Street.

There were 16 accidents at this location during the years 1966 through 1970. Four of these accidents were rightangle collisions. The reported cause of these accidents was the inability of drivers to see vehicles approaching the intersection. Eight of the remaining accidents occurred during parking maneuvers. At the present time parking is permitted within 15 ft of the stop sign on southwestbound Pennsylvania Street and 13 ft back of the stop sign on the northeastbound roadway.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that parking on the south side of the east leg of Commercial Street be prohibited from the
crosswalk east for a distance of 40 ft. Additionally, it is recommended that the first parking space on the south side of Commercial street west of the intersection be eliminated. This recommendation will greatly improve sight distance and reduce the incidence of right-angle accidents.

It is further recommended that the existing stop sign located on the southeast leg of jennsylvania street be replaced with a new sign, (R1-1-24, see Appendix II, p. 88), since the existing one has lost its reflective properties.


LOCATION 2 PRAIRIE RONDE @ MIDDLE CROSSING STREET, LOWE STREET AND GREEN STREET

The above location is a five-legged intersection located in the northwest section of the city. The major roadways are Prairie Ronde and Middle Crossing Streets. Prairie Ronde Street is a 30 ft bituminous roadway and is the through street. Green Street, Lowe Street and Middle Crossing are all 22 ft bituminous roadways.

The existing traffic controls at this location consist of two 30 in. stop ahead signs and two 36 in. stop signs for Middle Crossing Street; a "Do Not Pass" sign, a 30 in. stop ahead sign and a 30 in. stop sign for Lowe Street and a 30 in. stop sign for Green Street. Furthermore, there are two overm head flashing beacons at this location. One of the beacons has a single face (red lens) for traffic approaching the intersection on Green Street while the other beacon has four faces with two of these giving a yellow indication for Prairie Ronde Street and the other two giving a red indication for Lowe Street and Middle Crossing Street.

There were 15 accidents at this location during the study period. One of the accidents was a sideswipe (same direction) and two were ranmoff the roadway accidents. The remaining 12 accidents were right-angle accidents. These accidents were caused when drivers on the stop streets failed to yield the right of way (even after stopping for the stop sign). This type of accident frequently occurs at multilegged
intersections. This is particularly true when one or more of the intersecting streets intersect at an acute angle. Sight distance usually is restricted and exposure time is increased due to the large expanse of pavement in the intersection area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Since visibility did not appear to be a problem at this intersection and since the accident frequency is not considered critical, realigning one or more of the intersection legs in order to improve the angle of crossing is not justified at this time. The city should, however, give consideration for such a realignment project when reconstruction is planned for any of these streets. Presently, however, it is recommended that Green Street be made one-way away from the intersection south to Sunnyside Street. This recommendation should improve the efficiency and safety of the intersection by removing some of the conflicting movements from the intersection.

It is further recommended that the existing stop ahead signs on Middle Crossing and Lowe Streets be replaced with 36 in. stop ahead signs (W3-1-36, see Appendix II, p. 91). According to the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a stop ahead sign where required sha11 be a $W 3-1-30$ in advance of a 24 in. "Stop" sign and a W3-1-36 in advance of a 30 in. or 36 in. "Stop" sign.



## WESTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET

## S OUTHBOUND

MIDDLE CROSSING ROAD


## EASTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET



NORTHBOUND
LOWE STREET


NORTHWESTBOUND
GREEN STREET

LOCATION 3 WEST PRAIRIE RONDE STREET AND HASTINGS STREET

Prairie Ronde is a major city street that provides eastwest access and is located at the northern edge of the City of Dowagiac. At its northwest terminus it makes a $90^{\circ}$ turn to the south and continues southward as a continuation of Hastings Street. It is at this point that vehicular traffic has encountered difficulty in negotiating the $90^{\circ}$ turn. West Prairie Ronde - Hastings Street in this area is a 30 ft wide bituminous roadway. There are no centerline markings throughout the location.

The traffic controls at this location are a 36 in. 36 in. (square) curve sign in target position for westbound prairie Ronde Street and a 24 in . x 48 in . target arrow for northbound Hastings Street. There is a 25 mph speed zone throughout this location for both directions of traffic. This speed zone accommodates the school which is located adjacent to and south of the subject location and the residential areas which are located on either side of this location.

A total of 13 accidents occurred at this location during the study period 1966 through 1970. Eleven of the 13 accidents pertained to failure of the drivers involved to negotiate the curve properly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that turn signs (W1-1-30, Appendix II,
p. 95) be erected for each direction of traffic approaching the turn. It is also recommended that 15 mph advisory speed panels accompany the turn signs. The 15 mph advisory speed was chosen on the basis of devil level readings at this location. The devil level readings for the turns are as follows:

Southwest
Speed Reading

| 23 | $28^{\circ}$ | 23 | $28^{\circ}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 20 | $21^{\circ}$ | 20 | $21^{\circ}$ |
| 15 | $15^{\circ}$ | 15 | $15^{\circ}$ |
| 10 | $8^{\circ}$ | 10 | $8^{\circ}$ |

(See Part I, Section C, pp. 132-133 of the Manual Appendix II, pp. $98-99$.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the existing square curve sign and nonstandard target arrow be replaced by target arrows (W1-6-48, Appendix II, p. 96). The new signs should be erected in target position, one for northbound Hastings Street and the other for westbound Prairie Ronde Street.

It is further recommended that centerline pavement markings be applied at the above location (see centerline markings, Appendix II, pp. 100-101).



FIGURE 7



NORTHBOUND
HASTINGS AyENUE

## NORTHBOUND

HASTINGS AVENUE

WESTBOUND
PRAIRIE RONDE STREET

LOCATION 4

The above mentioned intersection is located in a semiresidential area in the northeast section of the City of Dowagiac. Oak, James and Telegraph Streets form a five-1egged intersection. Oak Street is the through street and all other streets are under stop control。 Oak Street is a 36 ft wide bituminous roadway north of the intersection and 30 ft wide south of the intersection. James and Telegraph Streets are 30 ft wide bituminous roadways throughout the intersection.

Traffic controls at this location are a 24 in. stop sign (poor condition) for James Street, 24 in. stop signs (poor condition) for each direction of traffic on Telegraph Street and a 24 in. school sign (nonstandard) for northbound Oak Street. The school sign services the grade school located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection. There is also a flashing beacon with red lenses for Telegraph Street and yellow lenses for 0ak Street. There is no signal indication for James Street. In addition the flashing beacon was inoperative。

There were 13 accidents at this location during the study period. Six of these accidents were caused when westbound traffic on Telegraph Street failed to yield the right of way (even after stopping for the stop sign). This type of accident frequently occurs at multilegged intersections. This is particularly true when one or more of the intersecting streets intersect at an acute angle. Sight distance usually
is restricted and exposure lame la increased due to the large expanse of pavement in the fntersection area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Since overall visibility at this intersection is good and the accident frequency is not considered critical, we do not feel that realignment is justified at this time in order to improve the angle of crossing at this intersection. How ever, it is recommended that the existing stop signs be replaced with new signs (R1-1-24, Appendix II, p. 88).

Recent field investigations revealed that the existing flashing beacon at the subject location was inoperative. According to the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, intersection beacons where warranted shall be operated continuously throughout the 24 hours of the day. Therefore, it is recommended that this beacon be activated to operate 24 hours a day. It is further recommended that an additional signal lens (red) be provided for southbound James Street traffic. Additionally, it is recommended that the nonstandard school sign located on the south leg of Oak Street be replaced with a new school sign (S1-1, 30 x 30 , Appendix II, pp. 102 103).
FIGURE 8

| LEGEND | MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS TRAFFIC AND SAFETY DIVISION |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Location TELEGRAPH AT JAMES AND OAK CITY OF DOWAGIAC CASS COUNTY <br> REV. $11-22-71$ |
|  |  |



## EASTBOUND

TELEGRAPH STREET

S OUTHBOUND
JAMES STREET


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TELEGRAPH STREET


NORTHBOUND
OAK STREET


SOUTHBOUND
OAK STREET

LOCATION $5 \frac{\text { FRONT STREET @ HIGH STREET (SEE APPENDIX Is }}{\text { P. } 68 \text { ) }}$
$\underline{\text { Total }} \underline{\text { P.D. }}$ Inj。 Fatal
$\begin{array}{llll}11 & 9 & 2 & 0\end{array}$

LOCATION 6 LOWE STREET AND JOHNSON STREET AT JEFFERSON STREET AND POKAGON STREET

The four streets that comprise this location join together at right angles to form an offset intersection. Lowe Street and Johnson Street which provide north-south access are offset in relation to Jefferson Street and Pokagon Street which provide east-west access. Lowe Street has a 26 ft wide bituminous surface, Johnson Street an 18 ft wide bituminous surface and Jefferson and Pokagon both have 31 ft wide bituminous surfaces. Lowe Street is a major city street that serves the west side of the Gity of Dowagiac. The other three legs of the intersection are all required to stop, and this is indicated by 24 in. stop signs that are located on each corner.

There were nine accidents at this location during the study period. Four of the accidents were ranmoff roadway, three were right angles and one was a left-turn accidento The single remaining accident occurred when a car hit an animal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that a stop sign (R1-1-24, Appendix II, p. 88) and a stop ahead sign (W3-1-30, Appendix 1 I, p. 91) be erected on Lowe Street at its approach to the intersection for southbound traffic. As a part of the installation of this stop control, it is recommended that the existing stop control for westbound Jefferson Street be eliminated. However, it is suggested that this change in stop control take place after a (30-day) transition period. During this period, both southbouth and westbound traffic should be stopped. It is further recommended that a stop ahead $\operatorname{sign}$ (W3-1-30; Appendix II, p. 91) be erected on Pokagon Street for eastbound traffic. Additionally, the damaged stop sign (see photo, p. 42) located on Pokagon Street should be replaced with a new sign (R1-1-24) and relom cated closer to the intersection. Also, the clear-vision areas should be maintained in the northeast and northwest quadrants of the intersection in order to provide adequate visibility for Lowe Street traffic entering the intersection.



## EASTBOUND

## POKAGON STREET



SOUTHBOUND
LOWE STREET


WESTBOUND

## JEFFERSON AVENUE

# LOCATION 7 BEESON @ EAST AND WEST RAILROAD STREETS (SEE APPENDIX I, p. 70) 

$\underline{\text { Total P.D. Inj. Fatal }}$
8
1
1

LOCATION 8 DIVISTON STREET @ COMMERCIAL, MICHIGAN AND CENTER (SEE APPENDIX I, p. 73)

Total P.D. Inj. Fatal

| 10 | 7 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## LOCATION 9 COMMERCLAL STREET AT NEW YORK STREET

The subject intersection is located in the Central Business District of the City of Dowagiac. Commercial Street and New York Street intersect at right angles. Commercial Street is a 40 ft wide bituminous roadway and New York Street is a 32 ft wide bituminous surface. Both streets have curb throughout this location。

The existing traffic controls consist of 24 ing stop signs for each direction of traffic on New York Street. The stop sign for northeastbound New York Street traffic is difficult to see because of its improper location (see photo, p. 46).

There were ten accidents at this location during the study period. Four of them were right angles. Four were sideswipes, one a rear-end and one a backing accident.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that parking on the south side of the west leg of Commerial Street be prohibited from the crosswalk west for a distance of 55 ft . It is also recommended that parking on both sides of the east leg of Commercial Street be prohibited easterly for an additional 25 ft .

It is further recommended that the existing yellow and black (nonstandard) stop sign on southwestbound New York Street (north leg of intersection) be replaced with a new sign (R1-1-24, Appendix II, p. 88). It is also recommended that the existing stop sign on the south leg of New York Street that is now located between two large trees be relocated so that it is in better view for northwestbound traffic. Additionally, it is recommended that pavement markings (centerline) be provided on all approaches to the intersection (see centerline markings, Appendix II, pp. 100-101).



LOCATION 10. $\frac{\text { TELEGRAPH STREET @ WEST RAILROAD STREET }}{\text { (SEEAPPENDIX I, } 1.76)}$

Tota1 P.D. Inj. Fatal
8
5
3

LOCATION 11 COMMERCIAL STREET @ DEPOT STREET (SEE APPENDIX I, P. 79)

Total P.D. Inj。 Fatal
9
7
2
0

LOCATION 12

## PRAIRIE RONDE STREET © EAST AND WEST RAILROAD STREET

The intersection of Prairie Ronde @ East and West Railroad $S t r e e t$ is located in the northeast section of the City of Dowagiac. The intersection of Prairie Ronde and West Railroad Street forms a four-legged intersection while the intersection of Prairie Ronde and East Railroad Street forms a "T" intersection. Prairie Ronde is a major city street that provides east-west access. West Railroad which is a local city street and East Railroad which is a major city street both provide access in a northeast and southwest direction.

The traffic controls at these intersections consist of 24 in. stop signs on West Railroad Street for both directions of traffic and a 24 in. stop sign on East Railroad Street for northeastbound traffic. Other controls in the area are flashing beacons and automatic gates for the railroad crossing near the intersections.

Therewere a total of eleven accidents at this location during the study period 1966 through 1970. Three of the accidents involved vehicles hitting concrete abutments located in the center of Prairie Ronde Street. These concrete abuto ments have now been removed. The remaining accidents did not indicate the existence of an accident pattern and were property damage accidents only.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

We recommend that the existing stop signs located on the south leg of East Railroad and south leg of West Railroad Streets be replaced by new signs (R1-1-24, Appendix II, p. 88) because the existing stop signs have lost their reflectivity.



## EASTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET

EASTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET

SOUTHBOUND
WEST RAILROAD StREET


## WESTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET


NORTHBOUND
EAST RAILROAD STREET

LOCATION 13 THICKSTUN STREET AT MILLER STREET (SEE APPENDIX $I_{1}$ p. 82)

Total P.D. Inf. Fatal

4
2
2
0

LOCATION 14 RAILROAD STREET AT PARK PLACE (SEE APPENDIX I, P.84)

Total P.D. Inj. Fatal
$\begin{array}{llll}4 & 2 & 1 & 1\end{array}$

LOCATION 15 PRAIRIE RONDE STREET AND MARCELLUS HIGHWAY @ COLBY STREET

Prairie Ronde Street intersects Colby Street at the northeast city limits. Colby Street which provides northsouth access is offset to the west at its intersection with Prairie Ronde Street and is offset to the east at its intersection with Marcellus Highway. Colby Street is a 20 ft wide bituminous roadway with both legs under stop control. Prairie Ronde Street (west leg of intersection) is a 33 ft wide bituminous roadway with curb and gutter and Marcellus Highway (east leg of intersection) is a 22 ft wide bituminous roadway that has recently been resurfaced.

Traffic controls at this intersection consist of a 36 in. stop sign for each direction of traffic on Colby Street. There is also a 24 in . x 48 in . bi-directional target arrow in target position for northbound Colby Street traffic.

There were four accidents at this location during the study period 1966 through 1970. Two of the accidents were ran-off roadway, one a right angle and the remaining was a rear-end.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Although the accident problem is not considered serious at this location, it is recommended that a $W 1-2-30$ (Appendix II, p. 94) curve sign be erected for westbound traffic on Marcellus Highway in advance of the intersection.

It is also recommended that a $W 1-6-48$ target arrow be erected in target position in the southeast quadrant of the intersection for eastbound traffic on Prairie Ronde Street.



EASTBOUND
PRAIRIE RONDE STREET


## WESTBOUND

PRAIRIE RONDE STREET


NORTHBOUND

```
COLBY STREET
```



COLBY STREET

Elm and Madison are local streets serving a residential area in the northwest section of the City of Dowagiac. They intersect approximately at right angles. Both roads have 20 ft wide bituminous surfaces (seal coat). There are no traffic controls present at this location.

There were three accidents reported for this location during the study period (1966 through 1970). These three accidents involved southbound E1m and eastbound Madison Street traffic. A search for the cause of these accidents revealed that a major factor in their occurrence was the severe vision obstruction (one-story frame house) located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection。

## RECOMMENDATION:

The solution to the problem at this location is the removal of the vision obstruction. However, since the accident frequency at this location cannot be considered critical and since the cost of removing the vision obstruction would be prohibitive, the following alternate solution is recommended-that a yield sign (R1-2-36, Appendix IT, p. 89) be erected for each direction of traffic on Madison Street. The assignment of right of way at this location will help prevent future angle accidents. Prevention of future angle accidents is
especially important at this location because of the school buses that regularly cross this intersection. This recommendation is being made because all of the accidents occurring at this location are of the type that an assignment of right-of-way yield sign might improve.




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## WESTBOUND

MADISON STREET

First and Paris are local streets serving a residential area in the southwest section of the City of Dowagiac. These two streets intersect to form a "T" intersection. Both Paris and First Streets have 18 ft wide bituminous pavements. The only traffic control present at this location is a 24 in. $x$ 24 in. nonstandard diamond shaped bi-directional target arrow that is located in target position for southbound Paris Street.

There were three accidents at this location during the study perfod 1966 through 1970. This total included two angle accidents and one rear-end.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We believe that some type of traffic control assigning right of way should be present at this location although the accident frequency and the traffic volumes are not high. Therefore, it is recommended that a yield sign (R1-2-36, Appendix II, p. 89) be erected on Paris Street at its approach to First Street for southbound traffic. It is also recommended that the nonstandard bi-directional target arrow be replaced with a new sign (W1-7-48, see Appendix II, p. 97).


FIGURE 14

| LEGEND | MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS TRAFFIC AND SAFETY DIVISION |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Location FIRST AT PARIS <br> CITY OF DOWAGIAC CASS COUNTY <br> REV $11-23-71$ |
|  |  |



## EASTBOUND

FIRST STREET


## SOUTHBOUND

PARIS AVENUE

## WESTBOUND

FIRST STREET

## SUMMARY

The Michigan Department of State Police submitted 17
high accident locations for the City of Dowagiac to the Michigan Department of State Highways. After an indepth study of these locations, recommendations were formulated for ten of them. The locations and their recommendations are as follows:

1 Commercial Street at Pennsylvania Street

2

3

4

5

7 Beeson Street @ Railroad Street

8
Division Street @ Commercial, Michigan and Center Streets

## Quantity Recommendations

Prairie Ronde @ Middle Crossing Street, Lowe Street and Green Street

West Prairic Ronde Street @ Hastings Street

Oak Street @ James and Telegraph Streets

Front Street @ High Street

Lowe Street and Johnson Street @ Jefferson Street and Pokagon Street
Streets

Location Description

Commercial Street @ New York Street

10 Telegraph Street @ West Railroad Street

11 Commercial Street @ Depot Street

12 Prairie Ronde Street @ East and West Railroad Streets

13

14


9
1

Thickstun Street @ Mil1er Street

Railroad Street @ Park Place

Prairie Ronde Street and
Marcellus Highway @ Colby Street

Elm Street@Madison Street

First Street@Paris

1
1
1

2

1
1

2

1

TOTALS 10
2
2
2

## Quantity Recommendations

(R1-1-24)
Pavement Markings (Centerline)
Parking Prohibition
None

None
(R1-1-24)

None

None
(W1-2-30)
(W1-6-48)
$(R 1-2-36)$
(W1-7-48)
(R1-2-36)

Furthermore, recommendations were formulated that should be implemented at all locationa throughout the city of Dowagiac. These recommendations are as follows:

1. All parking stalls should be located a minimum distance of 20 ft from a crosswalk, or if none, then a minimum of 15 ft from the intersection of property lines at an intersection of highways.
2. A citywide maintenance program be undertaken to keep trees, shrubs and other growth from obscuring clear vision at intersections.

APPENDIXI



## EASTBOUND

HIGH STREET

SOUTHB OUND
FRONT STREET


## WESTBOUND

HIGH STREET



## EASTBOUND

BEESON STREET


NORTHBOUND

RAILROAD STREET
(West Junction)



WESTBOUND

BEESON STREET




## NORTHBOUND

## NORTHBOUND

COMMERCIAL STREET


SOUTHB OUND

CENTER STREET


## EASTBOUND

 DIVISION STREETWESTBOUND
DIVISION STREET

SOUTHB OUND
COMMERCIAL STREET



NORTHBOUND
RAILROAD STREET



EASTBOUND
TELEGRAPH STREET


## WESTBOUND



NOTE: DEPOT STREET WAS RECONSTRUCTED
IN THE SUMMER OF 1970 SEE. PHOTO FOLLOWING PAGE.
$\triangle$ PARKED VEH
FIGURE 19

| LEGEND | MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS TRAFFIC AND SAFETY DIVISION |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Location COMMERCIAL AT DEPOT CITY OF DOWAGIAC CASS COUNTY REV $11-23-7 \mid$ |
|  |  |



SOUTHB OUND


EASTBOUND<br>COMMERCIAL STREET






EASTBOUND
MILLER STREET

Park place
$30^{\prime} \mathrm{BIT}$.
$\bigcirc 1066$
$\triangle 1967$

1968

- 1969
- 1970
FIGURE 21

| LEGEND | MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS traffic and safety division |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Location RAILROAD AT PARKPLACE CITY OF DOWAGIAC CASS COUNTY |
|  |  |




## SOUTHBOUND

RAILROAD STREET


EASTBOUND
PARK PLACE

APPENDIX II

## Section B. Regulatory Signs

Regulatory Signs shall be used to inform highway users of traffic laws or regulations that apply at given places or on given highways. They are essential to indicate the applicability of legal requirements that would not otherwise be apparent. Great care must be exercised to see that they are erected wherever needed to fulfill this purpose, but unnecessary mandates should be avoided.

Included among regulatory signs are some, like those marking the end of a restricted zone, that are related to operational controls though not in themselves imposing any obligations or prohibitions.

Regulatory signs shall be erected at those locations where the regulations apply and shall be mounted so as to be easily visible and legible to the motorist whose actions they are to govern. Signs that have been erected but are no longer applicable shall be removed. Regulatory signs cannot be expected to command respect and obedience unless the regulations thereon set forth are adequately enforced.

Regulatory signs are classified in the following groups:
(1) Right-of-Way
(R1 Series)
a. "STOP" Sign
b. "YIELD" Sign
(2) Speed
(R2 Series)
(3) Movement
(R3 Series)
a. Turning
b. Alignment
c. One Way
d. Exclusion
(4) Parking
(R4 Series)
(5) Pedestrian
(R5 Series)
(6) Miscellaneous
(R6 Series)
With few exceptions, hereinafter detailed in the specifications for individual signs, regulatory signs are rectangular in shape with the larger dimension vertical and have black legends on white backgrounds. The principal exceptions referred to are the "STOP" sign, the Yield sign, the One Way arrow, and the Parking signs.

## STOP SIGN



Reflectorized

|  | 24 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$ | (12" |
| R1-1-36 | $36^{\prime \prime}$ | (12) |

All "STOP" signs shall be reflectorized or internally illuminated so that the shape, color, and legend will be comparable to that in day time conditions and will not produce detrimental glare to traffic.

The "STOP" sign may be supplemented by two alternating red flashing beacons in the face or by one red flashing beacon directly above the sign. Such beacon(s) shall be operated continuously.
Place at the point where it is desired to have traffic stop, or as near thereto as possible at the following locations:

1. On streets or highways intersecting a through street or highway.
2. Railroad crossing where a stop is required by order of the appropriate public authority.
3. Opposite all Stop lines applied on the pavement, except at intersections controlled by a traffic control signal.
4. At intersections where a flashing red beacon exists.

There shall be no "STOP" signs on approaches to an intersection where such approaches are controlled by a traffic control signal.

An overhead internally illuminated "STOP" sign may be used in lieu of roadside "STOP" signs.

Secondary messages shall not be used on the face of a "STOP" sign. At a four-way stop intersection, each "STOP" sign may
be supplemented by a separate panel reading " 4 -WAY". Where this panel is used in conjunction with an R1-1-24, it shall be $24^{\prime \prime} \times 9^{\prime \prime}$ with 5 -inch legend. Where used with an R1-1-30 or R1-1-36, it shall be $30^{\prime \prime} \times 12^{\prime \prime}$ with a 7 -inch legend. Each panel shall have a black legend and border with a white reflectorized background. No additional sign shall be displayed with a "STOP" sign except one of the following: R3-1, R3-2, R3-3, R3-5, R3-6, or R3-23.

A hand held "STOP" sign may be used by Traffic Regulators as provided in Part II, Section E. Drivers facing the hand held "STOP" sign shall come to a complete stop and remain standing until an indication is given to proceed.

For placement see figures 1-3 and 1-4 and for special interim application see page 400 .

YIELD SIGN


Reflectorized
R1-2-36 $36^{\prime \prime}$ Equilateral Triangle ( $8^{\prime \prime}, 3^{\prime \prime}$ and $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ letters)
All Yield signs shall be reflectorized or internally illuminated so that the shape, color, and legend will be comparable to that in day time condition and will not produce detrimental glare to traffic.

Place at the point where it is desired to have traffic yield or as near thereto as possible at the following locations:

1. At the approach to an intersection where it is necessary to assign right-of-way to the major road, but where a stop is not necessary at all times.
2. At any location where a special problem exists and where an engineering study indicates the problem to be susceptible to correction by use of the Yield sign.

An overhead internally illuminated Yield sign may be used in lieu of roadside Yield signs.

For placement see figures 1-3 and 1-4.

## SPEED LIMIT SIGN

> SPEED LIMIT 35

## Reflectorized

R2-1-24 $24^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$ (4 $4^{\prime \prime}$ letters and $10^{\prime \prime}$ numerals)
R2-1-48 $48^{\prime \prime} \times 60^{\prime \prime} \quad\left(8^{\prime \prime}\right.$ letters and $16^{\prime \prime}$ numerals)
The "SPEED LIMIT" sign shall be located at the point of change from one speed limit to another and at additional locations, as just beyond major intersections, where it is necessary to remind motorists of the applicable limit. Where the sign cannot be placed at the exact point of change in limit (such as at the center of an intersection), it shall be placed as near as practicable, but in advance of the point of change for a decrease; and beyond such point for an increase. Signs shall be installed at maximum intervals of $1 / 2$ mile within any Speed Control Zone to confirm the speed of that zone. On freeways, the R2-1-48 sign shall be used.

For placement see figures 1-5 and 1-35.

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## STOP AHEAD SIGN



Reflectorized
W3-1-30 $30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$ ( $6^{\prime \prime}$ letters)
W3-1-36 $36^{\prime \prime} \times 36^{\prime \prime}$ ( $8^{\prime \prime}$ letters)
The "STOP AHEAD" sign shall be erected in advance of an intersection where traffic is required to stop and the "STOP" sign is not visible to motorists for a sufficient distance or where emphasis is needed because of poor observance of the stop. The "STOP AHEAD" sign may also be used in advance of a red flashing beacon.

Where reguired, the W $3-1-30$ shall be used in advance of a 24 -inch "STOP" sign and the W3-1-36 in advance of a 30 or 36 -inch "STOP" sign.

Except where used on State trunkline highways at junctions with other State trunkline highways, it shall be located in advance of the required stop at the approximate distance indicated below:

| 85th Percentile Speed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $35 \&$ Below | $36-45$ | $46-55$ | $56 \&$ Over |
| $250^{\prime}$ | $400^{\prime}$ | $550^{\prime}$ | $750^{\prime}$ |

For location on State trunkline highways see figures 1-17 and 1-26.
For placement see figure 1-11.

## Section C. Warning Signs

## Introduction

Warning signs shall be used for the purpose of warning traffic of existing or potentially hazardous conditions either on or adjacent to the roadway. Warning signs require caution on the part of the motorist and may call for reduction of speed or other maneuver in the interest of his own safety and that of other motorists and pedestrians. Adequate warnings are of great assistance to the vehicle operator and are valuable in safeguarding and expediting traffic. However, the use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum. Too frequent use of them or their unnecessary use to warn of conditions which are apparent tends to bring disrespect for all signs.

The conditions warranting warning signs are classified in the following groups according to the type of conditions to which they are applied:

1. Changes in Horizontal Alignments (W1 Series)
2. Intersections (W2 Series)
3. Advance Warning of Control Devices (W3 Series)
4. Converging Traffic Lanes (W4 Series)
5. Narrow Roadways (W5 Series)
6. Changes in Highway Design (W6 Series)
7. Grades (W7 Series)
8. Roadway Surface Conditions (W8 Series)
9. Schools and Pedestrians (W9 Series)
10. Railroad Crossings (W10 Series)
11. Entrances and Crossings (W11 Series)
12. Miscellaneous (W12 Series)
13. Construction and Maintenance (W13 Series)*

Warning signs with certain exceptions shall be diamond-shaped (square with one diagonal vertical) and shall have a "Highway Yellow" background with black legend. These exceptions are

[^1]the Railroad Crossing signs, the Target Arrow signs, the Curve Speed panel, the Exit Speed sign, the Obstruction panel, and the Lattice Background. Other exceptions to the diamond shape are provided for in the case of temporary signs for highway construction and maintenance.
The use of warning signs should be limited to those standard signs set forth in this section. However, after the Engineer has exhausted all possibilities, it may be found that no standard sign fits the situation and warning signs, other than those specifed, may be required. Such signs shall conform with the general specifications for size ( $30^{\prime \prime}$ minimum), shape, and color of warning signs. All warning signs having significance during hours of darkness shall be reflectorized or illuminated.
(Rev. 1)

## CURVE SIGN



W1-2-30 $30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$
W1-2-36 $36^{\prime \prime}$ x $36^{\prime \prime}$
W1-2-48 $48^{\prime \prime} \times 48^{\prime \prime}$
The Curve sign shall be used to denote changes in alignment where a ball bank indicator or Devil Level registers $10^{\circ}$ or more at speeds between 30 and 60 miles per hour, and at such other locations where the change in alignment of the roadway is not apparent to the driver. Additional protection may be provided by use of the Curve Speed panel (W12-1).
The Curve sign shall be located in advance of the point of curvature at the approximate distance indicated below:

| 85th Percentile Speed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 35 \& Below | $36-45$ | $45-55$ | $56 \&$ Over |
| $250^{\prime}$ | $400^{\prime}$ | $550^{\prime}$ | $750^{\prime}$ |

Curves that are less than 400 feet apart shall be designated by the W1-4 sign.

For placement see figures 1-11 and 1-35.

## TURN SIGN



$$
\begin{array}{ll}
W 1-1-30 & 30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime} \\
W 1-1-36 & 36^{\prime \prime} \times 36^{\prime \prime} \\
W 1-1-48 & 48^{\prime \prime} \times 48^{\prime \prime}
\end{array}
$$

The Turn sign shall be used to denote changes in the horizontal alignment of all roads (except minor roads and streets where in the judgment of the engineer the use of this sign is unnecessary) where a ball bank indicator or Devil Level registers ten degrees or more at a speed of 30 miles per hour or less. Where this sign is warranted, consideration should be given to the use of a Target Arrow (W1-6). Additional protection may be provided by use of the Curve Speed panel (W12-1).

This sign shall be located in advance of the point of curvature at the approximate distance indicated below:

| 85th Percentile Speed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $35 \&$ Below | $36-45$ | $46-55$ | $56 \&$ Over |
| $250^{\prime}$ | $400^{\prime}$ | $550^{\prime}$ | $750^{\prime}$ |

Turns or a turn and a curve that are less than 400 feet apart shall be designated by the W1-3 sign.

For placement see figure 1-11.
(Rev. 1)

## TARGET ARROW SIGN



## Reflectorized

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { W1-6-48 } & 48^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{\prime \prime} \\
\text { W1-6-96 } & 96^{\prime \prime} \times 48^{\prime \prime}
\end{array}
$$

This sign may be used as a supplement to a Turn or Curve sign for potentially hazardous turns or curves. To increase its target value and to obscure misleading topography, the sign may be mounted on a Lattice Background (W12-10).

Where further emphasis of the required movement is desired, the W1-6-96 may be used in lieu of the unit consisting of the W1-6-48 and the W12-10.

This sign shall not be used to mark the ends of medians, centerpiers, etc., where there is no change in the direction of travel for all traffic. Further, it shall not be used as a route directional confirmatory marker or in any location where an intersecting street or highway of equal or nearly equal importance presents a choice of movement.

When used, the Target Arrow sign shall be erected in target position and, if possible, mounted high enough to be visible for at least 500 feet. It shall be placed at five feet minimum bottom height and two feet from the edge of the shoulder or curb face.

## BI-DIRECTIONAL TARGET ARROW SIGN



Reflectorized

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { W1-7-48 } & 48^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{\prime \prime} \\
\text { W1-7-96 } & 96^{\prime \prime} \times 48^{\prime \prime}
\end{array}
$$

The Bi-Directional Target Arrow sign may be used at "T" or "Y" intersections to inform the driver of the abrupt changes in highway alignment. To increase its target value and to obscure misleading topography, the sign may be mounted on a Lattice Background (W12-10).

This sign shall not be used to mark the ends of medians, centerpiers, etc., where there is no change in the direction of travel for all traffic.

When used, this sign shall be erected in target position and, if possible, it should be mounted high enough to be visible for at least 500 feet. It shall be placed at five feet minimum bottom height and two feet from the edge of the shoulder or curb face.

Where further emphasis of the required movements is desired, the W1-7-96 may be used in lieu of the unit consisting of the W1-7-48 and the W12-10.

## CURVE SPRED PANEL



## Reflectorized

| W12-1-21 | $21^{\prime \prime} \times 21^{\prime \prime}$ | $\left(10^{\prime \prime}\right.$ and $3^{\prime \prime}$ letters $)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| W12-1-24 | $24^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{\prime \prime}$ | $\left(12^{\prime \prime}\right.$ and $3^{\prime \prime}$ letters $)$ |

The Curve Speed panel may be used as a supplement to the W1-1 through W1-5 signs only and shall display a speed legend in increments of five miles per hour. Since this legend is advisory, no Traffic Control Order is required. The W12-1-21 shall only be used with the appropriate 36 inch W1 sign and the W12-1-24 with the appropriate 48 inch W1 sign.

To determine the accurate negotiable speed on a turn or curve by the use of a ball bank indicator or Devil Level, several runs should be made in the same direction to obtain the most accurate reading possible. Readings obtained from several trial runs in the same direction shall determine the curve speed for that respective direction. Since the comfortable turn or curve speed on $a$ specific turn or curve may vary, depending on direction of travel, the same procedure shall be used to obtain the curve speed for the opposite direction.

The following table indicates the speed to be used on the Curve Speed panel.

| Indicator Reading | Speedometer Reading | Appropriate <br> Panel Legend |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $10^{\circ}$ | 60,59, or 58 | 60 |
| $10^{\circ}$ | $57,56,55,54$, or 53 | 55 |
| $10^{\circ}$ | $52,51,50,49$, or 48 | 50 |
| $10^{\circ}$ | $47,46,45,44$, or 43 | 45 |
| $10^{\circ}$ | $42,41,40,39$, or 38 | 40 |
| $10^{\circ}$ | $37,36,35,34$, or 33 | 35 |
| $12^{\circ}$ | $32,31,30,29$, or 28 | 30 |
| $12^{\circ}$ | $27,26,25,24$, or 23 | 25 |


| Indicator Readimg | Speedometer Reading | Appropriate <br> Panel Legend |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $14^{\circ}$ | $22,21,20,19$, or 18 | 20 |
| $14^{\circ}$ | $17,16,15,14$ or 13 | 15 |
| $14^{\circ}$ | 12,11, or 10 | 10 |

The speed legend displayed may equal but never exceed that of the posted speed limit in a Speed Control Zone.

For placement see figure 1-11.

## EXIT __ MILES PER HOUR SIGN



Reflectorized
W12-2-48 $48^{\prime \prime} \times 60^{\prime \prime} \quad\left(8^{\prime \prime}, 16^{\prime \prime}\right.$, and $6^{\prime \prime}$ letters $)$
This advisory sign shall be used only at ramps exiting from freeways where the safe speed of the first curve on the off-ramp, as determined by conditions at each individual location, is found to be less than 70 percent of the design speed for the freeway.

If a safe speed indication is required for a second curve on an off-ramp well beyond the gore, a curve sign with a curve speed panel should be used.

For placement see figure 1-35.

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM 

MICHIGAN
department of state highwavs nov 101971

Tot All Jolders on Recom This Date of the $196 a$ filition' of the "Wichigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices"

From, Henrik E. Stafseth, Director<br>Michigan Department of State Highways<br>John II. Plants, Director Michigan Department of State Police

Subiect, Change Memorandum No. 5
In order to more nearly conform to the design and application of traffic control devices prescribed by the 1971 edition of the National "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) and to comply with recent revisions to the "Michigan Vehicle Code" (MVC), it is necessary that the following changes in the "Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MMUTCD) be made. These and other changes to the 1963 edition of the MMUTCD) will ultimately be encompassed in a revised edition of the MMITCCD. However, this Change Memorandum will serve to authorize interim changes of more urgent concem to state, county and municipal agencies.

In instances where "may" is used in this memorandum, the 1971 edition of the MUI'CD and forthcoming revised edition of the MMUTCD possibly will read "shall". 'The purpose of using "may" in this memorandum is to temporarily pernit the extended use of existing sign inventories.

The intcrim changes, numerically designated, follow (code numbers shown beneath sign illnstrations are from the MITCD sign coding system):

1. Ot all two-lane, two-way, hard-surface rodwats, begiming with the 1972 patement-marking season, any centerline marking placed shall be a broken yellow line. line widh, segment length, and the makking of "no-passing' zones shall be the same as currently specified by the NMITC(I).


2. By December 31, 1972, the limits of no-passing zones at vertical curves, identified by pavement markings and/ or "DO NOT PASS" and "PASS WI'll CARE" signs, shall be estublished where the minimum sight distance measured between points 3.75 feet (maximum) above the roadway surfice becomes less than that specified by the table on page 281 (MNUTCD).
3. In accordance with section 257.640 (MVC.), a pennant-shaped sign, having a black legend "NO PASSING ZONE" and border on a yellow reflectorized background, shall be located on the left side of the roadway opposite the beginning of each no-passing zone identified by a "DO NOT' PASS" sign and/or no-passing zone pavement markings. Consideration of item $\# 3$ should be taken into account


W14-3 when locating these signs.
5. Where an R1-2-36 "YIL' ID" sign is to be replaced or added, a sign with a red legend and 5 -inch red border on a white background may be used.

11.2 $36^{\prime \prime} \times 36^{\prime \prime} \times 36^{\prime \prime}$
6. Where an R3-27-24 "DO NOT ENTER" sign is to be replaced or added, a 30 -inch white square panel may be used, on which is inscribed a 29 -inch diameter red circle with a white band 5 inches in width placed horizontally across the center of the circle. The legend "DO NOT ENTEA" shall appear in white letters, with the words "DO NOT" above the band and "ENTER" below the band. If an 113-27-36 sign is to be replaced or added, a similar design, correspondingly larger, may be used. The use of an R3-36-24 "BUILLSEYE"' sign, as provided for by general revision number 2 to the MMUTCD, is hereby rescinded except for use as an illuminated sign suspended over the roadway at an intersection facing the "wrong-way" direction of travel.
7. Where a W4-1 "MERGING TRAFFIC" sign is to be replaced or added, a 30 -inch or 48 -inch diamond-shaped symbol sign, together with appropriate size "MERGE" panel, may be used.


Plock Legend
on a yellow
bockground
W4m $30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$ $24^{\prime \prime} \times 18^{\prime \prime}$
8. Where a W9-1 "SCllOOL" or a W9-2
"SCIOOOL CROSSING," sign is to be

replaced or added, a 30 -inch-by $30-$ inch pentagon-shaped sign, with figures to represent school children, may be used. When such sign includes crosswalk markings, it shall only be used at or adjacent to an established crosswalk and shall be preceded by a pentagonal sign which oxclades crosswalk markings (School Avance Sign).

## Black Legend on a yellow bockground


9. Where a "PEDESTRIAN CROSSING" or a W9-6 "WATCH FOR PEDFSTliANS" sign is to be replaced or added, a 30 -inch diamond-shaped sign, bearing a black stylized human shape on yellow reflectorized buckground, together with a 24 -inch-by-18-inch "Plid XING" panel, may be used.
10. For construction, maintenance, or utility operations, warning signs may be designed with a black legend on a reflectorized orange background; bar-


PED MING

WII-2 $30^{\prime \prime} \times 30^{\prime \prime}$ $24^{\prime \prime} \times 18^{\prime \prime}$ ricades may be designed with altermate reflectorized orange and white stripes; barrels may be equipped with alternate reflectorized orange and white, circumferential stripes; and cones, having orange as a predominant color, may be used. The use of stanliard orange flags in conjunction with orange signs is permitted so long as they do not interfere with a clear viow of the sign face. The use of the orange color devices, however, shall be limited to those operations where all waming signs, burricades, barrels, and cones pertaining to the same construction, maintename or utility operation are designed with the orange color.
11. On construction, maintenance, or utility operations, where orange is used for traffic control devices and flagmen are required, each flagman shall wear an orange vest and/or an orange cap, conforming to the designs specified by the 1971 edition of the MUTCD.

Standard plans for all signs described in this menorandum may be obtained from the Traffic and Safety Division, Michigan Department of State llighways.

We herchy certify that the provisions of this memorandum constitute an official change in the provisions of the "Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices", as adopted September 3, 1963 in accordance with Section 608, Act 300, P.A. 1949, as amended (MVC).


Note for Change Memorandums Only
This change will be reflected in the next Manual Edition. Therefore, this memorandum should be discarded when you receive that Edition.

## GLOSSARY

The term "Manual" when used in this report will refer to the "Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices"; , publication prepared by the Michigan Department of State Highways in conjunction with the Michigan State Police. Excerpts of the Manual are included in Appendix II.


[^0]:    "The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the State or U. S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

[^1]:    *Special warning signs for highway construction and maintenance projects are to be found in Part II of this Manual.

