Project Title: C-07-03: Highly Reflective Sign Sheeting Evaluation

Responsible Unit: Region II, Design

Project Manager: Stempel, Richard

Project Goal:
To Identify Acceptable Highly Reflective Sign Sheeting Products to Preclude the Need for External Lighting.

The use of external lighting on overhead signs has been a standard application throughout urban areas in New York State. In general, the external lighting systems are difficult and costly to maintain especially due to the high traffic of New York State Urban roads. In the past few years, sign sheeting technology has advanced to the point where newer types of sign sheeting can be as visible, or more so without external lighting than older types with lighting. Other States have already adopted a no external lighting policy in many areas due to the advent of these higher visibility sign sheeting. At this time, there are a few more advanced sign sheeting which have recently been made available which appear to provide high visibility in multiple applications, including unlighted, overhead applications. These types of sheeting are new to New York State and need to be evaluated to see which ones work the best in this application. Once the sheeting is evaluated, policy and specifications can be generated based on the sheeting’s performance.

Actions Proposed:
Install Candidate Sheeting Products on I-95, Cross Bronx Expressway, without External Lighting and Evaluate the Sheeting Visibility Over Three Years.

The evaluation of the sign sheeting would be done in two parts. First a photometric analysis of the sheeting on place would be carried out. Actual luminance measurements would be collected for the 2 different sheeting types. Measurements would be taken of the legends and backgrounds, as well as the ambient environment. A second, subjective analysis would then be carried out by visual observations of the in-situ signs in various locations and from various vehicles and observers. Photometric measurements will be taken soon after installation and then once a year for the next 2 years.

Anticipated Work Products and Accomplishments:
To identify one or more appropriate sign sheeting products for overhead signs

A final report would be generated presenting the results after 3 years. Preliminary results will be reported once a year after initial data collection. Results will provide information leading to the selection of the appropriate materials for future use. Policy would then be modified to allow the use of the appropriate materials in the required applications. Specifications will also be created to support the use of the material.

Proposed Budget: $200,000