New York Division

April 21, 2014

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In Reply Refer To:
HPO-NY

Richard W. Lee, P.E.
Director, Office of Design
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thank you for your letter dated April 3 informing us of a revision to the State’s practice of applying rumble strips. The Federal Highway Administration shares your enthusiasm for shoulder and centerline rumble strips, and the safety benefits they provide for all roadway users. Given the increasing number of lane departure crashes, rumble strips have been found to be an effective countermeasure for reducing crashes.

We also recognize that during the process of developing the Rumble Strip Engineering Instruction for secondary roads, the New York State Department of Transportation has made considerable design and placement modifications to balance the needs of motorists and nonmotorized users. We commend the department in its efforts to apply “state of the practice” designs that allow rumble strips to be made more compatible with the needs of nonmotorized users. The revisions that you have made since our first review of this document show genuine interest and concern of the bicycle community.

We believe that the revisions that you have made to this engineering instruction, along with outreach to the stakeholders and advocacy groups, will benefit all users of our secondary roadways around the State. Thank you for allowing us to review the final draft engineering instruction and for making the process transparent to internal and external partners.

Sincerely,

H. Randall Warden
Team Leader
Operations, Performance Management, and Safety Team
cc: D. Lombardi, Director, Office of External Relations
    T. Westhuis, Acting Director, Office of Traffic Safety and Mobility
    R. D. Wilder, Acting Director, Design Services Bureau
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