

5 March 2007

Re: Questionnaire for NCHRP Project 4-33
Procedures for Testing and Evaluating Detectable Warning Systems
WJE No. 2006.0911

Dear Transportation Professional:

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), under the AASHTO-sponsored National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), is conducting Project 4-33, *Procedures for Testing and Evaluating Detectable Warning Systems*. The objectives of this research are to (1) recommend test methods for evaluating performance and durability aspects of detectable warning systems and (2) provide guidance on the use of these methods for selecting detectable warning systems for different conditions.

The Americans with Disability Act mandates a tactile cue where pedestrian ways blend with vehicular ways. These detectable warnings must comply with specific geometric requirements and visually contrast with adjacent surfaces as detailed in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessible Guidelines. This research project is directed at the performance-based characteristics of systems used to meet the tactile cue requirement.

To accommodate these requirements, different detectable warning surfaces (e.g., plastics, ceramics, brick and concrete pavers, and metal) have been developed and are currently in use nationwide. These systems are expected to provide long-term performance and durability by retaining geometric characteristics, frictional properties, and other functional requirements over the expected service life. These long-term performance considerations are influenced by material properties and conditions of use, including climate (e.g., temperature ranges, sun exposure, and snowfall), maintenance practices (e.g., snow removal, use of deicing chemicals, and sweeping), type and condition of underlying surface (e.g., underlying material types, texture, and distress), construction methods (e.g., surface preparation and use of adhesives), and other factors.

The enclosed questionnaire is intended to generate information on the durability and performance of detectable warning systems used throughout the United States. This project will produce recommendations of test methods for evaluating the suitability of detectable warning systems for different environmental conditions. It is anticipated that this project will result in a draft document suitable for consideration for adoption as an AASHTO standard.

Headquarters & Laboratories—Northbrook, Illinois

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We would greatly appreciate your assistance in forwarding the attached questionnaire to the individual or group within your organization who could respond most appropriately.

Very truly yours,

WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.



Thomas J. Rowe, S.E.
Project Manager