

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

DATE January 12, 1973

FROM R. A. Hogan
State Maintenance Engineer

AT (OFFICE) Department of Public
Works and Highways
Maintenance Division

SUBJECT Policy Procedure No. 8

TO Mr. J. B. Ross
Division Engineer
5 Middle Street
Lancaster, New Hampshire 03584

MEMORANDUM

Enclosed herewith is copy of Policy Procedure No. 8 pertaining to the crossing of highways by off-highway recreational vehicles.



R. A. Hogan
State Maintenance Engineer

RAH/dpa

Enc.

to: R. H. Whitaker
W. F. Mead
A. D. Fiske
R. G. Jewell
M. J. Chase
F. B. Lynch, Jr.
All Division Engineers
C. H. Collins

State of New Hampshire
Department of Public Works and Highways

Crossing of Highways by Off-Highway
Recreational Vehicles (OHRV's)

Policy Procedure NO. 8

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these instructions is to outline departmental policy relative to the crossing of public highway systems by Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles. Such vehicles include snowmobiles, motor bikes, motorcycles, trail bikes, all terrain vehicles, including four-wheel drive vehicles or other motorized 2 or 3 wheeled trail type vehicles and track type vehicles. The further purpose is to indicate the requirements for approved crossing locations, signing and construction as may be required. The fundamental objectives are:

1. To provide maximum protection to highway traffic through the orderly control of the movements of OHRV's on to, from and across the highway systems of the State,
2. To provide a uniform means whereby OHRV's may be permitted to cross the State's highway systems and,
3. To provide a standard sign installation program to warn highway traffic that an approved OHRV crossing is ahead.

REFERENCES:

The following statutes are the basis for the policies developed herein:

1. Snow Traveling Vehicles Registration and Operation, RSA Chapter 269-B:13.
2. Prohibition of Certain Vehicles within Highway Rights-of-Way, RSA Chapter 249:52.
3. General, Extracts from Revised Statutes Annotated Pertaining to Highways, Bridges and other Related Statutes, Revised 1972.

- 2 -

POLICY PRINCIPLES:

I. Limited Access Highways (Interstates, Toll Roads and Other Limited Access Sections)

- A. Crossings of these rights-of-way may be made under bridge structures over streams by snowmobiles only when authorized by permit issued by Division Engineer.
- B. Crossings of these limited access highways may be made by all OHRV's under bridge structures carrying said limited access highways over other highways where there is sufficient room to safely accommodate such passage outside the traveled way of the other highway.
- C. We shall adhere to RSA 249:52 as inserted by Chapter 157, 1971, in the prohibition of operation of any OHRV's in the other portions of rights-of-way of these highways.

II. Controlled Access Highways

- A. Major crossings of established trail systems may be permitted on a permit basis only where authorized access points exist approximately opposite each other. In any case, the points of access shall not be greater than 250 feet apart, such distance being measured along the edge of the highway traveled way.
- B. The crossings permitted under bridges, as outlined for limited access highways, will be utilized in first priority before direct highway crossings as noted in this section are authorized.

III. Other State Highways

- A. The policy shall be as outlined in RSA 249:52 and RSA 269-B:13.
- B. A separate permit will be required for each authorized major trail crossing where sight distance exceeds 400 feet and is less than 500 feet in highway speed zones less than 50 mph, and less than 600 feet in highway speed zones of 50 mph and over. No permits will be issued where sight distance (defined in RSA 249:17) is less than 400 feet.

IV. Snowmobiles

A. Crossings of Town Roads will be handled in accordance with the statutes and as required by the Town.

V. General

- A. Permits will be issued by this Department, upon application to the appropriate Division Engineer, only to recognized formal organizations or groups for established trail system crossings. This will include State or local agencies and private organizations. A private organization may be any group that has designated one of its members as an officer or spokesman empowered to act for the group in all matters pertaining to OHRV Crossing permits.
- B. Roadway signing for snowmobile crossings will be limited to locations of marginal safe sight distance for vehicular approach speeds as previously defined, or as otherwise determined by this Department. Signing on the state highways may be provided by this Department for major trail crossings under permit, but only where the sight distance is considered marginal (400 to 500 or 600 feet) by the Division Engineer.
- C. Signing on trails must be provided, erected and maintained by the permittee adjacent to all state highway crossings warning trail users of the highway ahead. As a minimum, such trail signing shall consist of a stop sign and at least one advance warning sign for each approach to the highway, in accordance with the "Basic Recommendations for Snowmobile Trails" promulgated by the International Snowmobile Congress. No trail signs may be located within the highway right of way.
- D. Written permission from the property owners abutting highway rights-of-way, authorizing the use of their property for the trail system, will be required before any crossing permit is issued by the Division

Engineer. Upon written request of any property owner terminating this authorization, the permit will be revoked.

- E. Width of trail shall be sufficient and properly maintained to allow OHRV's to pass in opposite directions and thereby prevent any stopping or other avoidance maneuvers on the highway pavement.
- F. Maintenance of trail crossings within the highway right of way limits and parking areas on private property for the purpose of motor vehicle parking by trail users shall be the responsibility of the permittee. This Department can in no way participate in the maintenance of these facilities.
- G. The parking of motor vehicles and trailers or other equipment used to transport OHRV's to the trails shall not be permitted within the highway right of way limits.
- H. Permits shall specify any provisions necessary to maintain the existing highway drainage and/or to provide additional visibility or other safety features deemed advisable by the Division Engineer.
- I. No permit shall be issued for any proposed crossing that would have a descending approach gradient greater than $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ within fifty feet, or an ascending approach gradient greater than 25% within twenty feet, of the highway traveled way.

OPERATIONS:

- I. Maintenance Division - The Maintenance Division will be responsible for the following:
 - A. The Maintenance Engineer will be responsible for the development of approved crossing permit forms.
 - B. The Division Engineers will be responsible for the site review of crossing applications and the establishment of criteria for each individual crossing if approved.

3.

C. The Division Engineers will be responsible for the issuance of permits for approved locations to State, local and private agencies as may be appropriate.

D. The Division Engineers will be responsible for the recommendations as to required highway signs. Signing recommendations are to be reviewed with the Traffic Engineer as to need, location, size and message.

II. Traffic Division - The Traffic Engineer will be responsible for the following:

- A. Crossing site inspection as requested by the Division Engineer.
- B. Recommending the need, location, size and message of signs where appropriate.
- C. Erecting and maintaining the approved highway signing.

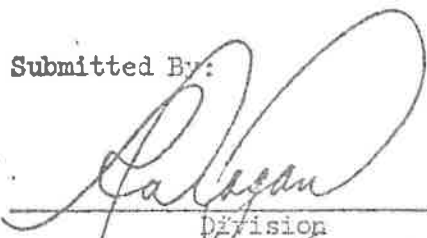
ENFORCEMENT:

Enforcement of this Policy Procedure will be as required under the referenced statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This procedure is effective upon the date of issuance.

Submitted By:


Division

Date December 29, 1972

Approved:


Commissioner

Date 2 JAN. 1973.