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IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY AT ACCIDENT-PRONE AREAS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN GLOW-IN-THE-DARK AND CONVENTIONAL ROAD MARKING

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Abstract

Driving at night is challenging due to poor vision, poor road visual guidance, and the need to encounter bright light sources. Factors like lack of street lighting, fading, and lack of reflectivity by road studs and retro-reflective materials affect road users' vision at night. Commentators have pointed out there is a critical demand to improve road safety in preventing road accidents and hazards that caused by the poor visibility of road markings and inadequacy lighting. Although road safety management has been given an important focus by the Ministry of Transportation Malaysia to achieve 50% reduction of road accidents by 2030, there is a critical demand to improve the present road markings method to overcome the issues of poor visibility or unclear road markings and inadequacy lighting that may trigger potential hazards to road users at night, with a new innovative road marking technology. Therefore, this paper is prepared with the objective to present the outcome of comparative study between the present conventional road markings and the newly innovative technology of glow-in-thedark method with specific reference to the road safety management in Malaysia. This study employed a questionnaire survey to interview fifty-one (51) respondents that have experience of driving at night, with the objectives to get their opinions on present condition of road markings in Malaysia, and how the newly innovative technology glow-in-the-dark can improve road safety in Malaysia. The study outcome revealed that the glow-in-the-dark is deemed appropriate to enhance the visibility during low-light conditions as compared to the present conventional road markings. Although the initial cost is higher, the economic advantages of glow-in-the-dark in reducing the streetlight usage, lower electrical costs, and substantially extended lifespan have made this newly innovative road marking outweighed the downsides and economically wise choice to revolutionize road safety management practice at the accident-prone areas in Malaysia for achieving the SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. © 2024 by MIP.

Author Keywords

Condition; Cost; Glow-in-the-dark; Road markings; Road Safety

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