

**National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO SPONSORS**

**Not Approved by the NCUTCD Council**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Regulatory/Warning Sign TC**

**TASK FORCE:** FHWA 2006 New issues – Issue # 1

**DATE OF ACTION:** 4-24-05 TASK FORCE, revised 5-15-05, revised 5-18-05, revised 5-25-05, revised 5-26-05, Revised 6-1-05, REVISED 8-14-05, revised 8-17-05, revised 9-1-05, revised 9-6-05, revised 9-23-05, 1-19-06 RWSTC approved

**REQUEST NUMBER**

**TOPIC:** Other sign Messages on back of STOP signs – Section 2B.06 STOP Sign Placement

**ORIGIN OF REQUEST:** NPA R/W Sign issues - FHWA

**DISCUSSION:** Section 2B.06 has a guidance statement that other than a DO NOT ENTER sign, no sign should be mounted back-to-back with a STOP sign in a manner that obscures the shape of the STOP sign.

**Problem statement:** (FROM NPA)

Are other sign messages allowed on the back of STOP signs? We have had request to place safety messages and other messages on the backside of STOP signs. We have correspondence where we have said “no” to using the back of any sign for providing messages to drivers. Yet, MUTCD Section 2B.06 says it is okay to use the back of a STOP sign as long as the shape is not compromised. There appears to be inconsistency in our position on this or at best the position is unclear. See attached letter 072104 Marc Breslow. **NOTE: Task force does not have copy of this letter.** Unquote: Comment by RWSTC task force: this is not correct – the MUTCD says obscured, not compromised. There is a difference).

**Response:**

The question really pertains to Section 1A.01 Purpose of Traffic Control Devices, and secondarily to Section 2A.06 Design of Signs, 2A.05 Classification of Signs, 2A.03 Standardization of Application, and 2B.54 Other Regulatory Signs. Any traffic control device must relate to traffic control. Safety messages are contained in the manual under 2A.07 Changeable Message Signs. The safety messages examples are listed and reference is made to Section 6F.55 as to requirements. Therefore, static signs that meet the requirements of the MUTCD in terms of providing traffic control related to regulations, warning and guidance are

allowed. However, safety messages and other messages that do not meet the above requirements would not be allowed regardless of whether or not they are on back of a STOP sign.

Section 2B.06 of the MUTCD provides guidance (NOT A STANDARD) that only the DO NOT ENTER sign is allowed to be mounted back-to-back with the STOP sign regardless whether or not it obscures it. **Other signs are not allowed to be mounted back to back with a STOP sign in a manner that obscures the shape of the STOP sign. If the sign does not obscure the shape of the STOP sign, it would be allowed on back of the STOP sign.** The language in the manual implies that it is allowed to place a DO NOT ENTER sign on back of a STOP sign regardless if it obscures the shape.

There are ~~only~~ two ways to avoid the DO NOT ENTER sign obscuring the shape of the STOP sign.

1. Provide a larger STOP sign so that the DO NOT ENTER sign does not protrude beyond the edge of the STOP sign enough to obscure the shape of the STOP sign. Example: A 48" STOP sign and a 30" DO NOT ENTER sign as shown on page 101 of the Traffic Control Devices Handbook 2001, published by ITE. A 36" STOP sign and a 30" DO NOT ENTER sign would also prevent the DO NOT ENTER sign from obscuring the shape of the stop sign, although the octagonal shape would be compromised slightly by the corners of the DO NOT ENTER sign protruding beyond the edges of the STOP sign.
2. Trim the edges of the DO NOT ENTER sign to minimize the amount it protrudes around the edges of the STOP sign. The MUTCD does not prohibit doing this.

Section 2B.10 allows for a DO NOT ENTER sign on back of a YIELD sign also, with the same language as is contained in 2B.06. The size of the YIELD sign would have to be 48" in order for a 30" DO NOT ENTER sign to not obscure the shape of the YIELD sign, but would still compromise the distinctive upside-down triangular shape somewhat by overlapping the lower edges of the YIELD sign. A 60" YIELD sign, which is a freeway size sign, would be of sufficient size to mount a 30" DO NOT ENTER sign with almost no overlap.

The language approved at the June 2004 meeting noted below still includes the guidance statement that, other than a DO NOT ENTER sign, no sign should be mounted back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign in a manner that obscures the shape of the STOP or YIELD sign. The attention brought to this matter by the review of this comment has lead to the conclusion that no sign should be allowed to be mounted back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign in such a manner that it obscures the distinctive silhouette of the octagonal STOP sign or upside-down triangular shape of the YIELD sign because of the critical nature of those signs and the need for them to be recognizable under the poorest of lighting and visibility conditions

## Proposal

### Language as approved at the JUNE 2004 (Juneau) NCUTCD MEETING

Proposed modifications (per Issues #1 and #2) to the language that was approved at the June 2004 NCUTCD meeting to be included in the next edition of the MUTCD:

## **Section 2B.10 STOP Sign or YIELD Sign Placement**

### **Standard:**

The STOP or YIELD sign shall be installed on the near side of the intersection and on the right side of the approach to which it applies. When the STOP or YIELD sign is installed at this required location and the sign visibility is restricted, a Stop Ahead sign shall be installed in advance of the STOP sign, or a Yield Ahead sign shall be installed in advance of the YIELD sign (see Section 2C.29).

YIELD signs shall be placed on both the left and right sides of approaches to roundabout intersections with more than one lane on the signed approach where raised splitter islands are available on the left side of the approach.

The STOP or YIELD sign shall be located as close as practical to the intersection it regulates, while optimizing its visibility to the road user it is intended to regulate.

YIELD signs and STOP signs shall not be mounted on the same post.

### **Guidance:**

Other than a DO NOT ENTER sign, no sign should be mounted back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign in a manner that obscures the shape of the STOP or YIELD sign.

### **Support:**

Figure 2A-2 shows examples of some typical placements of STOP signs and YIELD signs.

Section 2A.16 contains additional information about separate and combined mounting of other signs with STOP or YIELD signs.

### **RECOMMENDED WORDING:**

Following are the proposed modifications as approved by the RWSTC on 1-19-06 (per Issues #1) to the language that was approved at the June 2004 NCUTCD meeting. Proposed changes (*It should be noted that Section 2B.10 as modified below is not the version in the currently-published version of the 2003 MUTCD; it has been modified in previously approved changes.*)

## **Section 2B.10 STOP Sign or YIELD Sign Placement**

### **Standard:**

The STOP or YIELD sign shall be installed on the near side of the intersection and on the right side of the approach to which it applies. When the STOP or YIELD sign is installed at this required location and the sign visibility is restricted, a Stop Ahead sign shall be installed in advance of the STOP sign, or a Yield Ahead sign shall be installed in advance of the YIELD sign (see Section 2C.29).

YIELD signs shall be placed on both the left and right sides of approaches to roundabout intersections with more than one lane on the signed approach where raised splitter islands are available on the left side of the approach.

The STOP or YIELD sign shall be located as close as practical to the intersection it regulates, while optimizing its visibility to the road user it is intended to regulate.

YIELD signs and STOP signs shall not be mounted on the same post.

**Nothing except official traffic control signs shall be mounted on the front or back of STOP or YIELD signs, or on their supports.**

**No sign shall be mounted back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign in a manner that completely obscures the shape of the STOP or YIELD sign. When installing traffic control signs back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign, the signs shall be limited to the maximum sizes shown in Table 2B-XX.**

**Table 2B-XX. Maximum Sign Sizes Mounted Behind STOP or YIELD Signs**

STOP or YIELD Sign Size		Maximum size of sign allowed behind STOP or YIELD sign <sup>1</sup>		
		Square or Diamond	Vertical Rectangle	Horizontal Rectangle
STOP	600 x 600 (24 x 24)	450 x 450 (18 x 18)	300 x 600 (12 x 24)	600 x 300 (24 x 12)
	750 x 750 (30 x 30)	600 x 600 (24 x 24)	450 x 750 (18 x 30)	750 x 450 (30 x 18)
	900 x 900 (36 x 36)	750 x 750 (30 x 30)	600 x 750 (24 x 30)	900 x 450 (36 x 18) 750 x 600 (30 x 24)
	1200 x 1200 (48 x 48)	1050 x 1050 (42 x 42)	900 x 1050 (36 x 42) 750 x 1200 (30 x 48)	1200 x 750 (48 x 30) 1050 x 900 (42 x 36)
YIELD	750 x 750 x 750 (30 x 30 x 30)	300 x 300 (12 x 12)	300 x 450 (12 x 18)	450 x 300 (18 x 12)
	900 x 900 x 900 (36 x 36 x 36)	450 x 450 (18 x 18)	450 x 600 (18 x 24)	600 x 450 (24 x 18) 750 x 300 (30 x 12)
	1200 x 1200 x 1200 (48 x 48 x 48)	750 x 750 (30 x 30) <sup>2</sup> 600 x 600 (24 x 24) <sup>3</sup>	600 x 750 (24 x 30)	750 x 600 (30 x 24) 900 x 450 (36 x 18)
	1500 x 1500 x 1500 (60 x 60 x 60)	900 x 900 (36 x 36) <sup>2</sup> 750 x 750 (30 x 30) <sup>3</sup>	750 x 1050 (30 x 42)	1200 x 600 (48 x 24) 1050 x 750 (42 x 30)

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Signs that are smaller in either one or both dimensions than those listed are also allowed.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum size for square signs only.

<sup>3</sup> Maximum size for diamond signs.

Guidance:

Other than a DO NOT ENTER sign, no sign should be mounted back-to-back with a STOP or YIELD sign in a manner that obscures the shape of the STOP or YIELD sign.

Support:

It might be necessary to increase the size of the STOP or YIELD sign in order to install another sign back-to-back with the STOP or YIELD sign in a manner that does not obscure the shape of the STOP or YIELD sign.

Figure 2A-2 shows examples of some typical placements of STOP signs and YIELD signs.

Section 2A.16 contains additional information about separate and combined mounting of other signs with STOP or YIELD signs.

VOTE: For 11  
 Opposed 8  
 Abstentions 0