

**National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
RWSTC RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS**

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: (TASK FORCE): May, 14, 2010

RWSTC APPROVAL DATE: June 30, 2010

TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: Oct 28, 2010

RWSTC APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS: January 19, 2011

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: January 20, 2011

TOPIC: Two Way Traffic on a Three Lane Road

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Figure 2C-8, Table 2C-1 and Table 2C-2 (2009 MUTCD)

DISCUSSION:

The *Synthesis of Non-MUTCD Signing* identified seventy-four signs or categories of signs that are not in the MUTCD but were in common use by various States, local governments and Canada. The *Synthesis of Non-MUTCD Signing* recommended that these signs be considered for inclusion in the NCUTCD. One of these signs was the symbol “Two-way Traffic on a Three Lane Road” shown below.



36 At least 3 States and Canada are using a variant of the two-way traffic symbol to warn of
37 two-way traffic on roads having three lanes, with one lane in one direction and two lanes
38 in the other direction. The standard symbol (W6-3, Section 2C.44 of the 2009 MUTCD)
39 shows one up arrow and one down arrow. The three States' variants show three arrows,
40 symbolically denoting not only two-way traffic but also how many lanes in each
41 direction. The Canadian equivalent of the symbol includes a vertical broken line
42 separating the up and down arrows, and one State's 3-arrow variant uses the same
43 concept (but with a solid line) to reinforce the message.

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45 The Two Way Traffic on a Three Lane Roadway sign (W6-5 and W6-6) was approved by
46 Council on January 18, 2007 and was included in the December 2007 NPA in Section
47 2C.46, Figure 2C-8 and Table 2C-2. The sign in the NPA had a solid line separating the
48 two directions of travel. The version of the sign approved by Council did not include the
49 solid line separating the two directions of travel.

50

51 The sign was eliminated from the 2009 MUTCD. Section 142 of the December 16, 2009
52 Final Rule states *"In the NPA, the FHWA proposed adding a new section numbered and*
53 *titled Section 2C.46 Two-Way Traffic on a Three-Lane Roadway Sign. The proposed sign*
54 *was a variant of the existing W6-1 two-way traffic warning sign. ATSSA and two local*
55 *DOTs supported the sign; however, an NCUTCD member and a citizen expressed*
56 *concern that the sign might convey inaccurate information to drivers if the sign rotated to*
57 *an upside down position as the result of vandalism or sign damage. The FHWA agrees*
58 *and does not adopt this section or the associated signs in this final rule."*

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60 This comment was not among those received at the Sponsors Comment stage of review.
61 At that time ATSSA commented that the sign should be Regulatory rather than Warning.
62 The major comment at the Sponsors Comment stage of review was that there should be a
63 line separating the two directions of the arrows. The NPA eventually adopted this point
64 of view.

65

66 It is true that a rotated sign would impart incorrect information. But the same is true of
67 the Chevron signs (R6-4 and W1-8), the Lane Reduction (W4-2) sign and some of the
68 Intersection signs (W2-2 and W2-3). When rotated, the bottom of a standard 30 inch by
69 30 inch sign with a 5 foot mounting height would be approximately 18 inches above the
70 ground. It would be obvious to most motorists that something is wrong with the sign.
71 Also, none of the State's using this sign, commented on the threat of vandalism, so it may
72 be assumed that the threat is small.

73

74 The RWSTC believes that this sign is needed to properly sign two-way roadways with
75 three travel lanes.

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77 **RECOMMENDATION: Add Section 2C.XX, and add the sign shown above to**
78 **Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2 and Figure 2C-8**

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80

81 **Note: Proposed changes to the MUTCD are shown in underline red and removed**
82 **text are shown in ~~strikethrough red~~.**

83

84 **RECOMMENDED WORDING:**

85

86 Section 2C.XX Two-way Traffic on a Three Lane Roadway (W6-X) sign

87 **Option:**

88 The Two-way Traffic on a Three Lane Roadway (W6-Xa and W6-Xb) signs may be
89 installed along three lane roadways with two lanes in one direction and one in the
90 opposing direction.

91 **Standard:**

92 **The W6-X sign shall match the lane configuration of the roadway.**

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95 RWSTC VOTE: For: 20
96 Opposed: 1
97 Abstentions: 1
98 Approved

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100 VOTE: Council For: 35
101 Opposed: 0
102 Abstentions: 2
103 Approved 1-20-11

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106 C:\nctcd\January 2011\RW # 5 Resubmit2WayTraffic3LaneRoad revised 6-30-10,
107 approved 1-19-11, 1-20-11 approved by council