



**National Committee on  
Uniform Traffic Control Devices**

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**Agenda Item III.7, June 2014**

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2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE;** Regulatory & Warning Signs

3 **DATE OF ACTION;** January 9, 2014

4 **TASK FORCE;** Randy McCourt & Jim Pline

5 **TECH COM APPROVAL DATE:** 1/09/14

6 **TECH COM APPROVAL DATE FOLLOWING EDITS:** 3-21-14

7 **TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS:** April 2014

8 **RWSTC APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS:** 6-25-14

9 **COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:** **June 26, 2014**

10

11 **TOPIC:** Excessive Use of Signs

12 **AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD:** Section 2A.04 (Relocated to 2A.20)

13 **SUMMARY:**

14 In December 2013 we received FHWA edits to Chapter 2A along with other chapters. This proposal from  
15 FHWA reorganized Chapter 2A in order to enhance the usability of the Manual both printed and  
16 electronic editions. Continued development of the web and application based programs necessitates  
17 organizing the document in a manner that can more easily be viewed and searches by various electronic  
18 devices per FHWA.

19 Also, FHWA has included all the previously approved NCUTCD Council approved items verbatim and has  
20 indicated the date and RW item # approved by Council.

21 FHWA's intention is to issue an NPA in November 2014, requested NCUTC input by July 2014.

22 **RESEARCH:** None

23 **DISCUSSION:**

24 The RWSTC approved Section 2A.20 as submitted by the FHWA recognizing that it has been  
25 expanded as noted in red text to address vanity signs. It is considered necessary to send this  
26 expanded text to the Sponsors for their comments prior to the final consideration and approval in

27 June 2014. Based on the Sponsors comments, it is recommended that all reference to “Vanity”  
28 signs be deleted.

29 Existing 2009 MUTCD text : Black

30 Proposed FHWA Text : Blue

31 FHWA Explanatory Notes: **White Highlighted Green**

32 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD PROVISIONS/REVISIONS:**

33 It is recommended that the following revised MUTCD text be approved.

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35

36 **Section ~~2A.04~~ ~~2A.03~~ 2A.20 Excessive Use of Signs**

37

38 ~~*When used,*~~

39 ~~*Regulatory*~~ *Regulatory* and warning signs should be used conservatively because these signs, if used to  
40 excess, tend to lose their effectiveness. ~~*If used,*~~ *Route signs and directional guide signs should be used*  
41 *frequently at strategic locations because their use promotes efficient operations by keeping road users*  
42 *informed of their location. In all cases, sign clutter (see Paragraph 2 of this Section) should be avoided*  
43 *and minimized as much as practicable.*

44

45 Support:

46 Sign clutter is the proliferation of sign installations or assemblies along the roadway or roadside,  
47 either separately or grouped, to such an extent that adequate spacing between installations necessary for  
48 orderly processing of the sign messages cannot be achieved without unduly distracting the attention of the  
49 road user away from the driving task. Sign clutter can reduce the effectiveness of one or more signs in a  
50 sequence of signs.

51 Vanity signs display information that is of little value or interest to the majority or significant number  
52 of road users. Vanity signs often take the form of General Information signs, but provide no navigational  
53 guidance or orientation to the road user. Vanity signs are usually of importance only to the entity  
54 requesting the sign. Vanity signs can result in sign clutter and undermine the basic role of official traffic  
55 control devices in providing only as much information to the road user as necessary to promote the safe  
56 and efficient operation of streets and highways.

57 Section 1D.09 contains additional information regarding the placement of traffic control devices and  
58 unnecessary traffic control devices.

59 Guidance:

60 Signs and other traffic control devices should be installed and maintained from a systematic  
61 standpoint rather than individually. When a new sign is installed, the existing signs in the vicinity should  
62 be considered for replacement, relocation, or removal as a result of the new sign that is installed.  
63 Existing systems of signs should be reviewed periodically for evidence of sign clutter and adjustments  
64 should be made accordingly.

65 Vanity signs, if installed due to mandate or other directive, should be located as far as possible from  
66 other traffic control devices, decision points, and other locations requiring heightened attention of the

67 | road user and in as inconspicuous a location as practicable, such as farther from the roadside and away  
68 | from highway medians, gore areas, auxiliary lanes, or similar features.

69 | **TECH COMMITTEE VOTE 3-21-14: For: 19          Against: 1          Abstentions: 1**

70 | **TECH COMMITTEE VOTE 6-25-14 FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS:**

71 | **For: 25 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1**

72 | **COUNCIL VOTE:    June 26, 2014    For: Unanimous          Against          Abstentions**

73 | **C:NCUTCD/June 2014 /RW #7 Section 2A.04 (new 2A.20) Excessive use of signs 3-21-14**

74 | **Updated 5/27/14, approved by RWSTC 6-25-14 following sponsor comments, approved by**

75 | **COUNCIL 6-26-14**