

APPROVED IN NCUTCD GENERAL SESSION ON JANUARY 20, 2006

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

Approved by NCUTCD Council January 20, 2006

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

DATE OF ACTION: 1/18/2006

REQUEST NUMBER

TOPIC: **Pedestrians with Visual Impairments -- Section 2B.44 Pedestrian Crossing Signs**

ORIGIN OF REQUEST: **Joint NC Task Force on Pedestrians**

DISCUSSION:

Problem statement:

Depending on the degree of impairment, visually impaired pedestrians are not able to see some or all traffic control devices. The MUTCD attempts to address this problem in certain situations. One instance is Section 6F.68 Detectable Edging for Pedestrians.

Since most visually impaired pedestrians will not be able to see the R9-3 or R9-3a NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING signs, the Pedestrian Task Force has requested that the RWSTC consider adding language to Section 2B.44 Pedestrian Crossing Signs that recommends the use of detectable edging between established sidewalks and areas in which pedestrians are prohibited.

Two main concerns were whether detectable edging can be considered a traffic control device, and, if so, what constitutes detectable edging? Because Section 6F.68 already addresses detectable edging, the first concern becomes moot. The RWSTC worked with Bezzy Bentzen from "Accessible Design for the Blind" to identify acceptable detectable edging treatments.

Proposal:

Change the MUTCD to provide guidance for the use of detectable edging with the R9-3 or R9-3a NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING signs.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

It is recommended that **Section 2B.44 Pedestrian Crossing Signs (R9-2, R9-3)** be revised as follows:

Section 2B.44 Pedestrian Crossing Signs (R9-2, R9-3)

Option:

Pedestrian Crossing signs (see Figure 2B-18) may be used to limit pedestrian crossing to specific locations

Standard:

If used, Pedestrian Crossing signs shall be installed to face pedestrian approaches.

Option:

Where crosswalks are clearly defined, the CROSS ONLY AT CROSSWALKS (R9-2) sign may be used to discourage jaywalking or unauthorized crossing.

The No Pedestrian Crossing (R9-3a) sign may be used to prohibit pedestrians from crossing a roadway at an undesirable location or in front of a school or other public building where a crossing is not designated

The NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (R9-3) word message sign may be used as an alternate to the R9-3a symbol sign. The USE CROSSWALK (R9-3b) supplemental panel plaque, along with an arrow, may be installed below either sign to designate the direction of the crossing

Support:

One of the most frequent uses of the Pedestrian Crossing signs is at signalized intersections that have three crossings that can be used and one that cannot be crossed.

Guidance:

The R9-3b sign should not be installed in combination with educational plaques.

Support:

Pedestrians with visual impairments typically need additional guidance to supplement the NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (R9-3) sign and No Pedestrian Crossing (R9-3a) symbol sign.

Guidance:

The NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (R9-3) sign and No Pedestrian Crossing (R9-3a) symbol sign should be supplemented with detectable guidance.

Support:

Examples of detectable guidance include:

- A. Grass strips, landscaping, or planters
- B. Fencing, rails, or barriers

VOTE: For = Unanimous
 Opposed =
 Abstentions =