

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

RWSTC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL 6-21-07

APPROVED BY NCUTCD COUNCIL 6-21-07

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: January 2007, June 4, 2007 after sponsor comments (revisions in yellow); Approved by RWSTC 6-20-07

TOPIC: Warning Signs, THRU TRAFFIC MERGE RIGHT (LEFT) (SSW-10)

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Sections 2C.23, Table 2C-1; Table 2C-2; Figure 2C-6

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 MUTCD. Thirty-one of these signs were Warning Signs. The Regulatory and Warning Sign Technical Committee (RWSTC) reviewed these signs in June 2006. The RWSTC recommended that thirteen of these signs or sets of signs be included in the MUTCD. One of these thirteen signs was the THRU TRAFFIC MERGE RIGHT (LEFT) sign shown below.



At least 11 States routinely use supplemental warning signs approaching lane drops to warn thru traffic (i.e., traffic not exiting at the next interchange or turning at the next intersection) to “merge left” (or right). States also use this sign to advise ~~motorist's~~ motorists to leave congested lanes at interchanges.

The W4-7 THRU TRAFFIC MERGE RIGHT (LEFT) sign is shown in Figure 6F-4 (Sheet 1 of 4) and discussed in Section 6F.23

Recommendation:

The THRU TRAFFIC MERGE RIGHT (LEFT) sign should be added for optional use, either alone or in addition to a “Lane Ends” sign, a RIGHT (LEFT) LANE ENDS LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT (RIGHT) sign or a “RIGHT (LEFT) LANE MUST TURN RIGHT (LEFT)” sign.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

Amend ~~Section 2C.23~~ Section 2C.33, add **THRU TRAFFIC MERGE LEFT (RIGHT) (W4-7) sign** to Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2 and Figure 2C-6

Section 2C.33 Lane Ends Signs (W4-2, W4-7, W9-1, W9-2)

Guidance:

The LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT (RIGHT) (W9-2) ~~word~~ sign, or the Lane Ends (W4-2) ~~symbol~~ sign, should be used to warn of the reduction in the number of traffic lanes in the direction of travel on a multi-lane highway (see Figure 2C-6).

Option:

The RIGHT (LEFT) LANE ENDS (W9-1) ~~word~~ sign (see Figure 2C-6) may be used in advance of the Lane Ends (W4-2) ~~symbol~~ sign or the LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT (RIGHT) (W9-2) ~~word~~ sign as additional warning or to emphasize that the traffic lane is ending and that a merging maneuver will be required.

The THRU TRAFFIC MERGE LEFT (RIGHT) (W4-7) sign may be used when it is desirable to indicate that thru traffic should move out of a lane that will become a mandatory turn or exit lane or will be occupied by large volumes of entering traffic.

On one-way streets or on divided highways where the width of the median will permit, two Lane Ends signs may be placed facing approaching traffic, one on the right side and the other on the left side or median.

The reduction in the number of traffic lanes may also be delineated with roadway edge lines (see Section 3B.09) and/or roadway delineation (see Chapter 3D).

Guidance:

Where an extra lane has been provided for slower moving traffic (see Section 2B.32), a Lane Ends ~~word~~ sign or a Lane Ends (W4-2) ~~symbol~~ sign should be installed in advance of the end of the extra lane.

Lane Ends signs should not be installed in advance of the end of an acceleration lane.

VOTE: For: Unanimous

