

**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

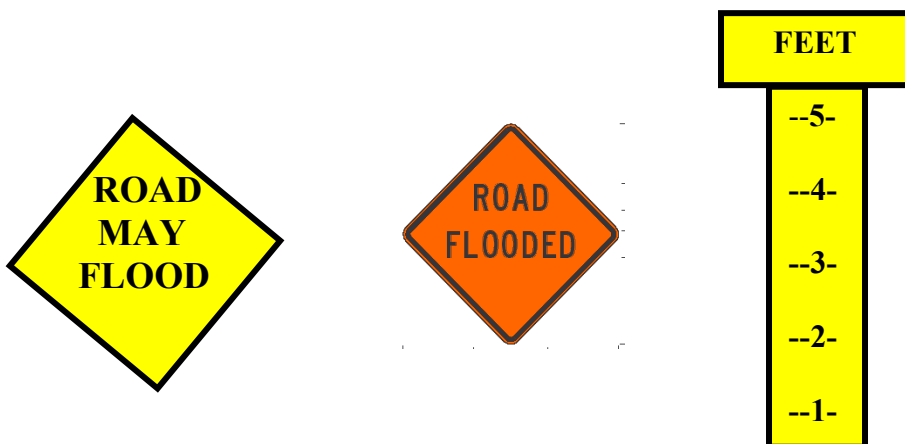
DATE OF ACTION: January 2007, June 4, 2007 revised after sponsor comments (revisions shown in yellow); Approved by RWSTC 6-20-07

TOPIC: Warning Signs, Roadway flooding and depth gauge (SSW-17)

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2C.XX, Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2, Figure 2C-4 and Figure 2C-11

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, or sets of 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 the thirteen sets of signs was the roadway flooding and water depth gauge signs shown below.



Thirty States and the U.S. Forest Service use a wide variety of sign legends to warn of the possibility of flooding, or the actual flooding of the roadway. Messages used to warn of possible flooding include "Flash Flood Area", "Flood Area", "Road May Be Flooded", "Subject to

Flooding”, “Road Subject to Flooding”, “Road Floods”, “Watch for Water on Road”, “Watch for Water Over Road”, “Watch for Water”, “Road Floods During High Tide”, “High Tide May Cover Roadway”, and “Impassable During High Water”. To warn of actual flooding, messages used include “Road (or Street) Flooded”, “Water Over Road”, “Water Over Roadway”, “Water on Road”, “Water on Pavement”, “High Water”, “Flood Water”, and “Running Water”. While not known to be in use in any State, the simplest and most generic message to warn of possible flooding may be “Road May Flood”, while “Road Flooded” is simplest and most applicable message for warning of actual flooding. Additionally, at least 4 States and the U.S. Forest Service use a sign that functions as a water depth gauge, posted at the point where frequent intermittent roadway flooding occurs. This sign warns of actual water depth and is a valuable guide to road users considering whether or not to proceed

Recommendation:

Standard signs to warn of roadway flooding should be considered for addition to the MUTCD. Signing for the depth of water should also be considered. The ROAD FLOODED is a temporary sign. It should be considered by Part 6, Temporary Traffic Control.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

Add new Section 2C.XX, add signs to Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2, Figure 2C-4 and Figure 2C-11. This new Section should be placed between existing Sections 2C.28 and 2C.29.

Section 2C.XX Roadway Flooding Signs (WX-X, WX-Z, W16-Xp)

Guidance:

The ROAD MAY FLOOD (WX-X) sign (see Figure 2C-4) should be installed in advance of roadway locations that are frequently flooded.

Option:

The Depth Gauge (WX-Z) sign (see Figure 2C-4) may be installed at roadway locations that are frequently flooded.

Standard

When used, the Depth Gauge (WX-Z) sign shall indicate the depth of the water at the deepest point on the roadway. be placed at the point where the water is expected to be the deepest.

~~When used,~~ The Depth Gauge (WX-Z) sign shall be in addition to supplemented with a ROAD MAY FLOOD sign.

Guidance:

The Depth Gauge (WX-Z) sign should be supplemented with a DEPTH or FEET warning plaque (W16-Xp) (see Figure 2C-11).

VOTE: For: Majority
Opposed: 1