



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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**Attachment No. 1**  
**Item No.: 16A-RW-01**

## NCUTCD Proposal for Changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

**TECHNICAL  
COMMITTEE:  
ITEM NUMBER:  
TOPIC:  
ORIGIN OF REQUEST:**

Regulatory & Warning Signs Committee

16A-RW-01

Parking Signs

RWSTC Task Force: Tom Heydel (RWSTC Chair), Mark  
Bott, Bob Canfield, Richard Meredith, Lee Roadifer, Randy  
McCourt, Ross Oyen, Dave Woosley

**AFFECTED SECTIONS  
OF MUTCD:**

Sections 2B.46, 2B.47 and 2B.48, 2B.49

**DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:**

- Approved by Technical Committee: 01/07/2016
- Approved by Technical Committee following Sponsor comments: 06/08/2016
- Approved by NCUTCD Council: 06/10/2016

*This is a proposal for recommended changes to the MUTCD that has been approved by the NCUTCD Council. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. It will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.*

**SUMMARY:**

The management of parking has become a more complex issue than in the past with increasing needs for curb space to be utilized in various ways as communities' needs change. Figure 1 shows several examples of multiple parking restrictions or regulation for one curb area. While dramatic in this case of over a dozen (in Culver City, CA), sign messages managing the use of curb space for different time periods and days of the week is not uncommon.

The use of parking control signs generally falls into two groups: signs used to facilitate roadway operations and safety, and signs used to manage the use of areas where parking is allowed. Operational and safety uses can include No Parking, No Stopping or Standing, Bus Zones, Tow-Away zone, street sweeping, snow, fire lanes, etc. These signs may require an engineering study to determine placement, such as at intersections for keeping the sight triangle clear or facilitate turning movements. Parking or curb space management covers all the differing ways of dealing with the space beyond that needed for operations and safety, where an engineering review determines there is adequate space to safely park. Non-operational signs deal with time

restrictions, paid parking, loading space for persons with disabilities, electric vehicle charging, residential permits, special events, motorcycle parking, bicycle parking, police/government vehicles, taxi stands (vehicle, pedicab, horse drawn), valet parking, emergency parking, car sharing, carpools, and others.

Additionally, the need to instruct drivers how to park is not uncommon (angled parking, parallel parking, back in parking, etc). Local jurisdictions have codes, ordinances, and regulations that sometimes affect sign designs and layouts. As a result the MUTCD continues to expand to cover all these different types, styles, sizes, number and messaging of parking signs. Many of the signs shown in Figure 1 do not meet MUTCD. The signs shown below are intended to show how parking signs can proliferate and do not meet MUTCD in terms of color, text size, etc.



Figure 1 (part 1)



**Figure 1 (part 2)**

## DISCUSSION

In order to avoid the continuing expansion of the MUTCD for individual parking signs, it is more desirable to have the MUTCD provide the function, shape, color, size, spacing and retroreflectivity requirements rather than to show all the possible parking sign messages that could be used. Therefore, the number of sign designation numbers shown has been reduced to reflect only a sampling of sign messages.

The Synthesis of signs done by FHWA in 2005 provided for the parking signs that are commonly used which resulted in the Pay to Park series of signs. However, since then there has been a continual increase in the types of parking signs being used.

Streamlining the MUTCD text and sign details associated with parking signs provides the user the regulation requirements without covering every possible message that could be used on a parking sign.

## RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES

The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases, background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated by [highlighted light blue in brackets].

## Part 2. SIGNS

## Chapter 2B. REGULATORY SIGNS, BARRICADES, AND GATES

### Section 2B.46 Parking, Standing, and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 Series)

Support:

01 Parking signs pertain to ~~Signs governing~~ the parking, stopping, and/or standing of vehicles along the roadway and in designated parking areas. They cover a wide variety of regulations, and only general guidance can be provided here. The word “standing” when used on the R7 and R8 series and other parking ~~of~~ signs refers to the practice of a driver keeping the vehicle in a stationary position while continuing to occupy the vehicle. The term 'parking signs'; when used in the parking signs sections, shall refer to any signs that relate to parking, standing, or stopping.

02 Parking signs are categorized as either restricting parking, permitted parking, or limiting how parking is allowed. They are further categorized as either restriction parking (R7 series) signs or ~~rural~~ emergency restriction-parking (R8 series) signs.

03 The types of parking restrictions that might be encountered include, but are not limited to:

1. A complete prohibition of parking, standing and/or stopping that is in effect at all times.
2. A prohibition of parking, standing and/or stopping that is in effect during only certain times of the day and/or days of the week.
3. A prohibition on parking, standing and/or stopping with limited or specific exceptions (e.g., bus stops, loading/unloading zones, persons with disabilities, or electric vehicle charging stations)
4. Weather-related parking restrictions such as Emergency Snow Routes.

04 Permitted parking signs allowing parking or parking signs that allow parking with limitations includes, but is not limited to:

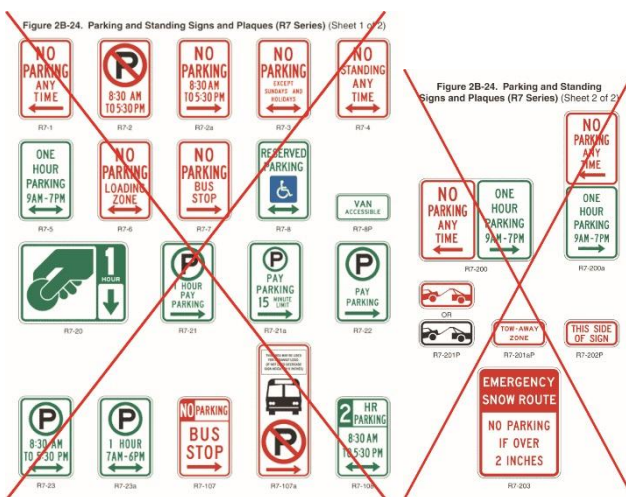
1. Parking only allowed for limited time duration, such as 30 minute, 1 hour, etc , parking
2. Pay parking
3. Reserved parking for select vehicle types such as vehicles of persons with disabilities, electric charging, police/government vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, valet, taxi stands (vehicle pedicab, horse drawn), carpools, car sharing, emergency parking and others
4. Angled or back in angled parking when it is not commonly utilized in the area.
5. Limitation of parking for management purposes such as neighborhood/residential permits, school areas, or special events.

~~Typical examples of parking, stopping, and standing signs and plaques (see Figures 2B-24 and 2B-25) are as follows:-~~

- ~~1. NO PARKING ANY TIME (R7-1);~~
- ~~2. NO PARKING X:XX AM TO X:XX PM (R7-2, R7-2a);~~
- ~~3. NO PARKING EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS (R7-3);~~
- ~~4. NO STANDING ANY TIME (R7-4);~~
- ~~5. XX HOUR PARKING X:XX AM — X:XX PM (R7-5);~~
- ~~6. NO PARKING LOADING ZONE (R7-6);~~

- ~~7. NO PARKING BUS STOP (R7 7, R7 107, R7 107a);~~
- ~~8. RESERVED PARKING for persons with disabilities (R7 8);~~
- ~~9. VAN ACCESSIBLE (R7 8P);~~
- ~~10. Pay Station (R7 20);~~
- ~~11. Pay Parking (R7 21, R7 21a, R7 22);~~
- ~~12. Parking Permitted X:XX AM TO X:XX PM (R7 23);~~
- ~~13. Parking Permitted XX HOUR(S) XX AM — XX PM (R7 23a);~~
- ~~14. XX HR PARKING X:XX AM TO X:XX PM (R7 108);~~
- ~~15. NO PARKING ANYTIME/XX HOUR PARKING X:XX AM — X:XX PM (R7 200, R7 200a);~~
- ~~16. TOW AWAY ZONE (R7 201P, R7 201aP);~~
- ~~17. THIS SIDE OF SIGN (R7 202P);~~
- ~~18. EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTE NO PARKING IF OVER XX INCHES (R7 203);~~
- ~~19. NO PARKING ON PAVEMENT (R8 1);~~
- ~~20. NO PARKING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER (R8 2);~~
- ~~21. No Parking (R8 3, R8 3a);~~
- ~~22. EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS (R8 3bP);~~
- ~~23. ON PAVEMENT (R8 3cP);~~
- ~~24. ON BRIDGE (R8 3dP);~~
- ~~25. ON TRACKS (R8 3eP);~~
- ~~26. EXCEPT ON SHOULDER (R8 3fP);~~
- ~~27. LOADING ZONE (R8 3gP);~~
- ~~28. X:XX AM TO X:XX PM (R8 3hP);~~
- ~~29. EMERGENCY PARKING ONLY (R8 4);~~
- ~~30. NO STOPPING ON PAVEMENT (R8 5);~~
- ~~31. NO STOPPING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER (R8 6); and~~
- ~~32. EMERGENCY STOPPING ONLY (R8 7).~~

**Figure 2B-24 Parking and Standing Signs and Plaques (R7 Series)**



**NOTE: Moved these signs to new figures 2B-24a and Figure 2B-25a separating restriction parking signs from permitted parking signs. Deleted some of these signs. See**



new figure 2B-24a and 2B-25a

**Figure 2B-25 Parking and Stopping Signs and Plaques (R8 Series)**



Move these signs to new figures 2B-24a and 2B-24b separating restriction parking signs and emergency restriction signs. Also, deleted some of these signs. See new figure 2B-24a and 2B-24b

## Section 2B.47 Design of Parking, Standing, and Stopping Signs

### ~~Support:~~

~~01 Discussions of parking signs and parking regulations in this Section apply not only to parking, but also to standing and stopping.~~

### Standard:

01 Parking, Standing or Stopping signs shall be rectangular or square.

02 The symbol “P” for parking prohibition, restriction or limitation signs shall be black.

03 Parking Restriction signs (See Figure 2B-24a for some commonly used examples) shall be used where parking is prohibited at all times or at specific times, and shall have red legend and border on a white background, except that the R8-3 and R7-107a sign shall have a black border and a red circle and slash on a white background.

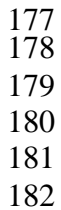
03a Public Agencies shall follow established law (state law, local ordinance, or regulation) as adopted by the authorized agency regarding what messages are allowed on parking signs.

### Option:

03b The words **PARKING** or NO PARKING may be used as an alternative to the **PARKING** or No Parking symbol (see R7 -2 sign in Figure 2B-24a) Moved from paragraph 19 to here since it applies to paragraph 02.

04 The R7-201P sign may have a black or red symbol and border on a white background.

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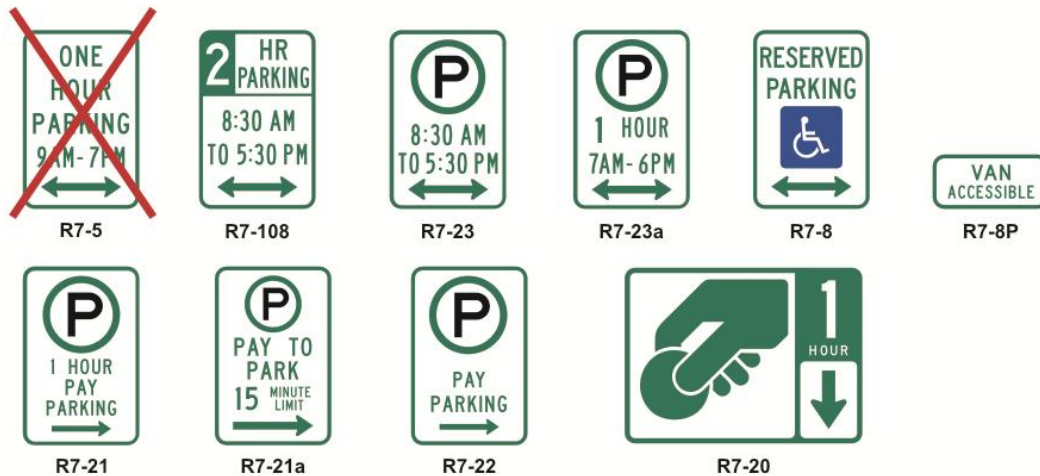
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**Add R7-24 and R7-25 sign to Figure 2B-25a previously approved by Council, January 2014, RW # 5, RESERVED PARKING CHARGING ONLY sign**

**02 06** The legend on parking signs shall state applicable regulations. Parking signs (see Figures 2B-24a and 2B-25a) shall comply with the standards of shape, color, and location.

**03** ~~Where parking is prohibited at all times or at specific times, the basic design for parking signs shall have a red legend and border on a white background (Parking Prohibition signs), except that the R8-4 and R8-7 signs and the alternate design for the R7-201aP plaque shall have a black legend and border on a white background, and the R8-3 sign shall have a black legend and border and a red circle and slash on a white background.~~ (NOTE: Moved to paragraph 03 above and modified.)

**04** ~~Where only limited-time parking or parking in a particular manner are permitted, the signs shall have a green legend and border on a white background (Permissive Parking signs).~~ (NOTE: Moved to paragraph 05 above and modified)

*Guidance:*

**05 07** Parking signs should display the following information from top to bottom of the sign, in the order listed:

- A. Any tow-away message or symbol.
- ~~B.~~ A The restriction or prohibition;
- ~~C.~~ B The times of the day that it is applicable, if not at all hours; and



~~D.6~~ The days of the week that it is applicable, if not every day.

E. Qualifying or supplementary information.

F. Exemptions to the restriction or prohibition.

Option:

08 A tow away message or symbol may be installed at the bottom.

Guidance:

~~06 09~~ If the parking restriction applies to a limited area or zone, the limits of the restriction should be shown by arrows or supplemental plaques. If arrows are used and if the sign is at the end of a parking zone, there should be a single-headed arrow pointing in the direction that the regulation is in effect. ~~If the sign is at an intermediate point in a zone, there should be a double-headed arrow pointing both ways.~~ When a single sign is used at the transition point between two parking zones, it should display a right and left arrow pointing in the direction that the respective restrictions apply.

Standard:

09a The times and days for which regulations, restrictions, permitted or limited uses or pay parking are in effect shall be posted if they are not in effect at all times of day or all days of the week.

Guidance:

09b The time restrictions should also be visible to a pedestrian.

Option:

~~10 10~~ As an alternate to the use of arrows to show designated restriction zones, word messages such as BEGIN, END, HERE TO CORNER, HERE TO ALLEY, THIS SIDE OF SIGN, or BETWEEN SIGNS may be used. (NOTE: This paragraph moved from paragraph 10 in MUTCD to here.)

~~07 Where special parking restrictions are imposed during heavy snowfall, Emergency Snow Route (R7-203) signs (see Figure 2B-24) should be installed. The legend will vary according to the regulations, but the signs should be vertical rectangles, having a white background with the upper part of the plate a red background.~~

11 If the sign is at an intermediate point in a zone, there may be a double-headed arrow pointing both ways.

~~12 To minimize the number of parking signs, Bb~~ blanket regulations that apply to a given district may, if legal, be posted at district boundary lines.

13 If a roadway has an adjacent paved shoulder, the legend NO PARKING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER or NO STOPPING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER may be used. The R8-3 symbol sign or the word message NO PARKING may be used to prohibit any parking along a roadway. Word message supplemental plaques may be mounted below NO PARKING signs. These word message supplemental plaques may include but not be limited to legends such as EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, ON PAVEMENT, ON BRIDGE, ON TRACKS, EXCEPT ON SHOULDERS, LOADING ZONE, and X:XX AM TO X:XX PM

Guidance:

~~07 14~~ Where special parking restrictions are imposed during heavy snowfall, Emergency Snow Route (R7-203) signs (see Figure 2B-24a) should be installed. The legend will vary according to the regulations, but the signs should be vertical rectangles, having a white background with the

upper part of the plate a red background. (Note: this paragraph moved from Paragraph 07 in 2009 MUTCD to here.)

~~16 15~~ If a fee is charged for on-street parking and a midblock or end of block pay station is used instead of individual parking meters for each parking space, pay parking signs should be used. Pay Parking (R7-21 through R7-22) (R7-22) signs (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25a) should be used to define the area where the pay station parking applies. Pay Station (R7-20) signs (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25a) should be used at the pay station or to direct road users to the pay station. (Note: This paragraph moved from paragraph 16 of 2009 MUTCD to here. Items shown in green text Previously Approved by Council January 2012, RW # 5

**Standard:**

~~08 Where parking spaces that are reserved for persons with disabilities are designated to accommodate wheelchair vans, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (R7-8P) plaque shall be mounted below the R7-8 sign. The R7-8 sign (see Figure 2B-24) shall have a green legend and border and a white wheelchair symbol on a blue square, all on a white background. The R7-8P plaque (see Figure 2B-24) shall have a green legend and border on a white background. (NOTE: This paragraph moved to paragraph 16 below)~~

**Option:**

~~09 To minimize the number of parking signs, blanket regulations that apply to a given district may, if legal, be posted at district boundary lines. (NOTE: This paragraph moved to paragraph 11 above and modified)~~

~~10 As an alternate to the use of arrows to show designated restriction zones, word messages such as BEGIN, END, HERE TO CORNER, HERE TO ALLEY, THIS SIDE OF SIGN, or BETWEEN SIGNS may be used. (NOTE: This paragraph moved to paragraph 09 above)~~

**Standard:**

~~10 16~~ If the pay parking is subject to a maximum time limit, the appropriate time limit (number of hours or minutes) shall be displayed on the Pay Parking (R7-21 or R7-21a) and Pay Station (R7-20) signs. (Note: This paragraph moved from paragraph 17 in 2009 MUTCD to here)

~~17 Where parking spaces that are reserved for persons with disabilities are designated to accommodate wheelchair vans, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (R7-8P) plaque shall be mounted below the R7-8 sign. The R7-8 sign (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25a) shall have a green legend and border and a white wheelchair symbol on a blue square, all on a white background. The R7-8P plaque (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25a) shall have a green legend and border on a white background. (Note: This paragraph 08 of 2009 MUTCD moved to here.)~~

**Guidance:**

~~18 Where parking spaces are reserved for charging electric vehicles, a RESERVED PARKING for charging electric vehicles (R7-24) sign (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25b) should be installed adjacent to the designated space.~~

~~19 Where on-street parking spaces are reserved for charging electric vehicles and have time restrictions, XX HOUR Parking for charging electric vehicle (R7-25) sign (see Figure 2B-~~24~~ 25b) should be installed adjacent to the designated space.~~

**Green Text previously approved by Council January 2014, RW # 5.**

**Option:**

Where parking is prohibited during certain hours and time-limited parking or parking in a particular manner ~~allowed is permitted~~ during certain other time periods, the red Parking Prohibition and green Permissive Parking signs may be designed as follows:

- A. Two 12 x 18-inch parking signs may be used with the red Parking Prohibition sign (R7-2) installed above or to the left of the green Permissive Parking sign (R7-5); or
- B. The red Parking Prohibition sign (R7-4.2) and the green Permissive Parking sign (R7-5) may be combined (see Figure 2B-24) to form ~~an R7-200 sign on a single 24 x 18-inch sign, or an R7-200a sign on a single 12 x 30-inch sign.~~

At the transition point between two parking zones, a single sign or two signs mounted side by side may be used.

~~The words PARKING or NO PARKING may be used as an alternative to the PARKING or No Parking symbol (see R7-2 sign in Figure 2B-24a). This sentence moved to paragraph 03b above. The supplemental educational plaque, NO PARKING, with a red legend and border on a white background, may be used above signs incorporating the No Parking symbol.~~

Alternate designs for the R7-107 sign may be developed such as the R7-107a sign (see Figure 2B-24a). Alternate designs may include, on a single sign, a transit logo, an approved bus symbol, a parking prohibition, the words BUS STOP, and an arrow. The preferred bus symbol color is black, but other dark colors may be used. Additionally, the transit logo may be displayed on the bus face in the appropriate colors instead of placing the logo separately. The reverse side of the sign may contain bus routing information.

~~To make the parking regulations more effective and to improve public relations by giving a definite warning, a TOW-AWAY ZONE (R7-201P) plaque (see Figure 2B-24a) may be attached above or below appended to, or the message incorporated in, any parking prohibition sign. The Tow-Away-Zone (R7-201aP) symbol plaque may be used instead of the R7-201P word message plaque. The R7-201aP plaque may have either a black or red legend and border on a white background. The word message Tow-Away Zone may be used in lieu of the symbol.~~

Guidance:

~~If a fee is charged for parking and a midblock pay station is used instead of individual parking meters for each parking space, pay parking signs should be used. Pay Parking (R7-22) signs (see Figure 2B-24 25a) should be used to define the area where the pay station parking applies. Pay Station (R7-20) signs (see Figure 2B-24 25a) should be used at the pay station or to direct road users to the pay station.~~

**This paragraph is moved above to paragraph 14.**

**Standard:**

~~If the pay parking is subject to a maximum time limit, the appropriate time limit (number of hours or minutes) shall be displayed on the Pay Parking (R7-21 or R7-21a) and Pay Station (R7-20) signs. This paragraph moved to paragraph 15 above.~~

Option:

~~In rural areas (see Figure 2B-25), the legends NO PARKING ON PAVEMENT (R8-1) or NO STOPPING ON PAVEMENT (R8-5) are generally suitable and may be used. If a roadway has paved shoulders, the NO PARKING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER sign (R8-2) or the NO STOPPING EXCEPT ON SHOULDER sign (R8-6) may be used as these signs would be less likely to cause confusion. The R8-3 symbol sign or the word message NO PARKING (R8-3a) sign may be used to prohibit any parking along a given highway. Word message supplemental plaques may be mounted below NO PARKING signs the R8-3 or R8-3a sign. These word message supplemental plaques may include legends such as EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS (R8-3bP), ON PAVEMENT (R8-3cP), ON BRIDGE (R8-3dP), ON TRACKS (R8-3eP), EXCEPT ON SHOULDER (R8-3fP), LOADING ZONE (with arrow) (R8-~~

~~3gP), and X:XX AM TO X:XX PM (with arrow) (R8-3hP).~~ (Note: This paragraph moved above to paragraph 12 and edited.

~~24-19 Colors that are in compliance with the provisions of Section 2A.10 may be used for color coding of parking time limits. The Pay Station (R7-20) sign may contain colors other than green for color coding the parking time limit portion of the sign only.~~ Green text previously approved by Council in January 2012, RW # 5

Guidance:

~~25-20 If colors are used for color coding of parking time limits, the colors green, red, and black should be the only colors that are used,~~ Green Text previously approved by Council on January 19, 2012, RW # 5

~~26 Lettering height and symbols size should be based upon the FHWA Standard Highway Signs and Markings Book.~~ NOTE: The most commonly used designs should be retained in the Standard Highway Signs and Marking Manual.

## **Section 2B.48 Placement of Parking, Stopping, and Standing Signs**

Guidance:

01 When signs with arrows are used to indicate the extent of the restricted zones, the signs should be set at an angle of not less than 30 degrees or more than 45 degrees with the line of traffic flow in order to be visible to approaching traffic.

02 Spacing of signs should be based on legibility and sign orientation.

03 If the zone is ~~unusually~~ long, signs ~~showing a double arrow~~ should be used at intermediate points within the zone.

**Standard:** Option

04 If the signs are mounted at an angle of 90 degrees to the curb line, two signs may ~~shall~~ be mounted back to back at the transition point between two parking zones, each with an appended THIS SIDE OF SIGN (R7-202P) supplemental plaque.

Guidance:

05 If the signs are mounted at an angle of 90 degrees to the curb line, signs without any arrows or appended plaques should be used at intermediate points within a parking zone, facing in the direction of approaching traffic. Otherwise the standards of placement should be the same as for signs using directional arrows.

## **Section 2B.49 Emergency Restriction Signs (R8-4, R8-7, R8-8)**

Option:

01 The EMERGENCY PARKING ONLY (R8-4) sign (see Figure 2B-~~25~~ 24b) or the EMERGENCY STOPPING ONLY (R8-7) sign (see Figure 2B-~~25~~ 24b) may be used to discourage or prohibit shoulder parking, particularly where scenic or other attractions create a tendency for road users to stop temporarily.

02 The DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS (R8-8) sign (see Figure 8B-1) may be used to discourage or prohibit parking or stopping on railroad or light rail transit tracks (see Section 8B.09).

**Standard:**

03 Emergency Restriction signs shall be rectangular and shall have a red or black legend and border on a white background.

398 **MODIFY Table 2B-1 to eliminate parking signs no longer shown.**

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400 C:\ncutcd\January 2016\16A-RW-01\parking signs Sections 2B.46, 2B.47, 2B.48, and 2B.49 11-15-15, revised 11-22-15, revised 11-27-15,  
401 revised 12-6-15, revised 12-12-15, revised 12-16-15, updated 12-21-15, 12-22-15, revised 12-23-15, revised 12-26-15, revised 1-7-16, 1-14-16,  
402 revised 5-8-16, revised 5-15-16, revised 5-18-16, updated 5-25-16, revised 6-8-16, approved by Council 6-10-16