



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

12615 West Keystone Drive * Sun City West, AZ, 85375
Telephone (623)680-9592 * e-mail: ncutcd@aol.com

ATTACHMENT NO. 4

Item No. 16B-RW-03

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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 16B-RW-03
TOPIC: Section 2C.04, Size of Warning Signs
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Gerard Gerhard letters of June 23, 2014 and
November 2, 2015
Task Force: Dan Paddick (Chair), Tom Heydel,
Andy Ramish, Erin Kissner, Herman Hill, Jason
Kennedy, Doug Bartlett, Bruce Ibarguen, Jim Pline,
Robert Weber, Paul Carlson
**AFFECTED SECTIONS
OF MUTCD:** Section 2C.04, Size of Warning signs
DEVELOPMENT HISTORY: Task Force: 5-6-16, revised 12-13-16

- Approved by Technical Committee: 06/09/2016
- Approved by RWSTC following sponsor comments: 01/04/2017
- Approved by NCUTCD Council: 01/06/2017

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:

On June 23, 2014, Mr. Gerard Gerhard of Lexington, Kentucky wrote to the Director of Office of Transportation Operations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The letter had 22 numbered sections recommending changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). He followed this up with a November 2, 2015 letter to Mr. William Lambert, Chair of the Regulatory and Warning Sign Technical

35 Committee (RWSTC) of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
36 (NCUTCD). This letter contained two more comments recommending changes.

37 The FHWA had transmitted the original letter to the NCUTCD for consideration. The
38 NCUTCD assigned the overview of these letters to the RWSTC because the majority of
39 the issues related to Regulatory and Warning Signs.

40 **DISCUSSION:**

41 Mr. Gerhard addresses two concerns (Gerhard item # 7) that he has with Section 2C.04,
42 Size of Warning signs. He writes:

43 **“Section 2C.04, Size of Warning Signs**

44 **A) Amend Section 2C.04, Size of Warning Signs (2009 MUTCD), Standard,**
45 **Paragraph 01, to add “and 2A.15.” Upon amendment, Paragraph 01 of Section**
46 **2C. 04 would read:**

47 *Except as provided in Section 2A.11 and 2A.15, the sizes for warning signs*
48 *shall be as shown in Table 2C-2.*

49

50 **B) Amend Section 2C.04, Size of Warning Signs (2009 MUTCD), Paragraph 05,**
51 **Option, so that, upon amendment, Paragraph 05 of Section 2C.04 will read:**

52 ***Guidance:***

53 *If a diamond shaped warning sign is placed on the left-hand side of a highway to*
54 *supplement the installation of the same warning sign on the right-hand side of*
55 *the roadway, the sign placed on the left- hand side of the highway shall be the*
56 *same size as the sign on the right-hand side of the highway.” (End of Quote)*

57 Mr. Gerhard has two suggestions within this comment. The first is that he believes
58 that Paragraph 01 should be amended to also reference Section 2A.15 along with
59 Section 2A.11. Section 2A.15 allows, based on engineering judgment, the use of
60 larger size signs to increase conspicuity.

61 The RWSTC believes that Section 2A.15 should be referenced in Paragraph 06
62 rather in Paragraph 01. This Paragraph directly addresses the use of larger signs.

63 Mr. Gerhard’s second comment is an amendment of Paragraph 05. This Paragraph
64 addresses the use of a smaller size sign for a supplemental sign on the left side of a

65 multi-lane roadway. It does not address any other roadway types or roadway
66 situations. Mr. Gerhard changes the title of the Paragraph from an Option to a
67 Guidance statement. However he writes it as a Standard by using “Shall”. He also
68 changes the statement from relating to multi-lane roadways to all roadways.
69 Section 2A.15B already requires that the supplemental sign on the left side of a
70 roadway be identical to the sign on the right side. This change is not necessary. It
71 would be redundant with Section 2A.15B.

72 The RWSTC believes that there are situations where a smaller size sign may be
73 appropriate on the left side of multi-lane roadways. An example of this would be a
74 narrow median where the width of a wider sign might encroach on the shoulder.

75 **RECOMMENDATION:**

76 Section 2A.15 will be referenced in Paragraph 06. This Paragraph directly
77 addresses the use of larger signs.

78 We do not agree with Mr. Gerhard’s comment that Paragraph 05 of Section 2C.04
79 needs to be amended.

80 **RECOMMENDED WORDING:**

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

88 **PART 2. SIGNS**

89 **CHAPTER 2C. WARNING SIGNS AND OBJECT MARKERS**

90 **Section 2C.04 Size of Warning Signs**

91 **Standard:**

92 01 ~~Except as provided in Section 2A.11 the~~ The sizes for warning signs shall be as
93 shown in Table 2C-2.

94 **Support:**

95 02 Section 2A.11 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns
96 in Table 2C-2.

97 **Standard:**

98 03 **Except as provided in Paragraph 5, the minimum size for all diamond-shaped**
99 **warning signs facing traffic on a multi-lane conventional road where the posted**
100 **speed limit is higher than 35 mph shall be 36 x 36 inches.**

101 04 **The minimum size for supplemental warning plaques that are not included in**
102 **Table 2C-2 shall be as shown in Table 2C-3.**

103 Option:

104 05 If a diamond-shaped warning sign is placed on the left-hand side of a multi-lane
105 roadway to supplement the installation of the same warning sign on the right-hand side of
106 the roadway, the minimum size identified in the Single Lane column in Table 2C-2 may
107 be used.

108 06 Signs and plaques larger than those shown in Tables 2C-2 and 2C-3 may be used (see
109 Section 2A.11 [and Section 2A.15](#)).

110 *Guidance:*

111 07 *The minimum size for all diamond-shaped warning signs facing traffic on exit and*
112 *entrance ramps should be the size identified in Table 2C-2 for the mainline roadway*
113 *classification (Expressway or Freeway). If a minimum size is not provided in the Freeway*
114 *Column, the Expressway size should be used. If a minimum size is not provided in the*
115 *Freeway or the Expressway Column, the Oversized size should be used.*

116

117 **Section 2A.15 Enhanced Conspicuity for Standard Signs**

118 Option:

119 01 Based upon engineering judgment, where the improvement of the conspicuity of a
120 standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign is desired, any of the following methods may
121 be used, as appropriate, to enhance the sign's conspicuity (see Figure 2A-1):

122 A. Increasing the size of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign.

123 B. Doubling-up of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign by adding a second
124 identical sign on the lefthand side of the roadway.

125 C. Adding a solid yellow or fluorescent yellow rectangular "header panel" above a
126 standard regulatory sign, with the width of the panel corresponding to the width of the
127 standard regulatory sign. A legend of "NOTICE," "STATE LAW," or other appropriate
128 text may be added in black letters within the header panel for a period of time determined
129 by engineering judgment. (And so forth.)

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131 C:NCUTCD/January 2017/Size of Warning Signs, Section 2C.04 16B.RW.03, APPROVED BY COUNCIL 1-6-17