

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Item No.: 24A-RW-02

NCUTCD PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Regulatory and Warning Signs Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 24A-RW-02
TOPIC: Neighborhood Traffic Circle Yield Sign Guidance
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: RW Roundabout Task Force Members: Rich Meredith, Doug Bartlett, Gerry Willhelm and Randy McCourt (chair)
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: 2B.39 Keep Right and Keep Left Signs
2B.51 Roundabout Circulation Plaque
Figure 2B-24

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by Technical Committee: 02/13/2024
Approved by Technical Committee following sponsor comments: MM/DD/YYYY
Approved by NCUTCD Council: MM/DD/YYYY

This is a proposed change to the MUTCD that has been developed by a technical committee or joint task force of the NCUTCD. The NCUTCD is distributing it to its sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Sponsor comments will be considered in revising the proposal prior to NCUTCD Council consideration. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. If approved by the NCUTCD Council, the recommended changes 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:

Traffic circles are traffic calming measures and not roundabouts. They are commonly on low volume streets and utilized stop signs, yield signs or no control, in some cases, permit left turns in front of the circle for larger trucks and emergency service vehicles. The figure and text in paragraph 01 implies yield signs and roundabout-like circulation are required for neighborhood traffic circle when in application they are not. This proposed change deletes the figure and text.

DISCUSSION:

In the 2023 MUTCD Figure 2B-24 Example of Regulatory and Warning Signs for a Neighborhood Traffic Circle was added. Additionally, the concept of a neighborhood traffic circle is introduced in the 2023 MUTCD in paragraph 01 of Section 2B.51. This is new material that was not in the 2020 NPA the FHWA released for public comment and subject to comment and input from the transportation profession.

35 The neighborhood traffic circle is not a roundabout, although it is a circular roadway. Paragraph
36 01 of Section 2B.51 conflates the circles with roundabouts operationally. This is not the case as
37 neighborhood traffic circle, by their title, are used most commonly on residential neighborhoods
38 with low traffic volumes and speeds. Neighborhood traffic circles are commonly considered
39 traffic calming measures used to retrofit streets with characteristics that may have contributed to
40 higher vehicle speeds than considered prudent for neighborhood settings. They are circular
41 geometrically but are not roundabouts operationally.

42
43 Neighborhood traffic circles exist in settings that may or may not involve stop sign warrants or
44 low volumes that may not warrant any traffic control. Therefore, a technical correction is needed
45 to the 2023 MUTCD since this was in error and not subject to public review. The added figure
46 and text that was placed in the 2023 MUTCD should be removed. To address this technical
47 correction, four changes are proposed: 1) delete Section 2B.39, paragraph 06; 2) delete the text
48 in Section 2B.51, paragraph 01 referring to neighborhood traffic circle; 3) delete Section 2B.51,
49 paragraph 02; and 4) delete Figure 2B-24). A possible future proposal for traffic control devices
50 at neighborhood traffic circles would be welcome with practitioner review and comment.

51
52 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**

53 The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the
54 current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and
55 proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously
56 approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double
57 underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases,
58 background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated
59 by bracketed white text in shaded green. Deletions made by a technical committee or task
60 force after initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in ~~highlighted red~~
61 ~~strikethrough and Helvetica text~~. Additions made by a technical committee or task force after
62 initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in underline blue and Helvetica text.

63
64 **PART 2. SIGNS**

65
66 **CHAPTER 2B. REGULATORY SIGNS, BARRICADES, AND GATES**

67
68 **Section 2B.39 Keep Right and Keep Left Signs (R4-7 Series and R4-8 Series)**

69 Option:

70 01 The Keep Right (R4-7) sign (see Figure 2B-10) may be used at locations where it is necessary for
71 traffic to pass only to the right-hand side of a roadway feature or obstruction. The Keep Left (R4-8) sign
72 (see Figure 2B-10) may be used at locations where it is necessary for traffic to pass only to the left-hand
73 side of a roadway feature or obstruction.

74 *Guidance:*

75 02 *At locations where it is not readily apparent that traffic is required to keep to the right, a Keep Right*
76 *sign should be used.*

77 **Standard:**

78 03 **If Keep Right signs are installed at the start of a median or at a median opening, they shall be**
79 **placed as close as practicable to the approach ends of the medians, and shall be visible to traffic on**
80 **the divided highway and angled toward the applicable crossroad approach as shown in Figure 2B-**
81 **20.**

82 *Guidance:*

83 04 If used, the Keep Right sign should be mounted on the face of or just in front of a pier or other
84 obstruction separating opposite directions of traffic in the center of the highway such that traffic will
85 have to pass to the right-hand side of the sign.

86 05 Where the approach end of the island channelizes traffic away from the approach direction, the
87 word legend (R4-7a, R4-7b, R4-8a, or R4-8b) signs (see Figure 2B-10) should be used instead of the
88 symbol (R4-7 or R4-8) signs to emphasize the degree of curvature away from the approach direction (see
89 Figure 2B-11).

90 ~~06 Where a regulatory sign is used within the central island of a neighborhood traffic circle to direct~~
91 ~~traffic counter clockwise around the central island, the Keep Right with diagonal arrow (R4-7b) sign~~
92 ~~should be used (see Figure 2B-24). The mounting height of the sign should be at least 4 feet, measured~~
93 ~~vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way.~~

94 NOTE: All other paragraphs (07-13) remain the same.

95 Section 2B.51 Roundabout Circulation Plaque (R6-5P)

96 Guidance:

97 01 Where the central island of a roundabout ~~or neighborhood traffic circle~~ does not provide a
98 reasonable place to install a sign as provided elsewhere in this Chapter, Roundabout Circulation (R6-5P)
99 plaques (see Figure 2B-13) should be placed below the YIELD signs on each approach.

100 Support:

101 ~~02 Paragraph 6 of Section 2B.39 contains information about the use of a Keep Right (R4-7b) sign in the~~
102 ~~central island of a neighborhood traffic circle.~~

103 03 Paragraph 12 of Section 2B.49 contains information about the use of a ONE WAY (R6-1 or R6-2)
104 sign in the central island of a roundabout.

105 Option:

106 04 At roundabouts where ONE WAY signs have been installed in the central island, Roundabout
107 Circulation plaques may be placed below the YIELD signs on approaches to roundabouts to supplement
108 the central island signs.

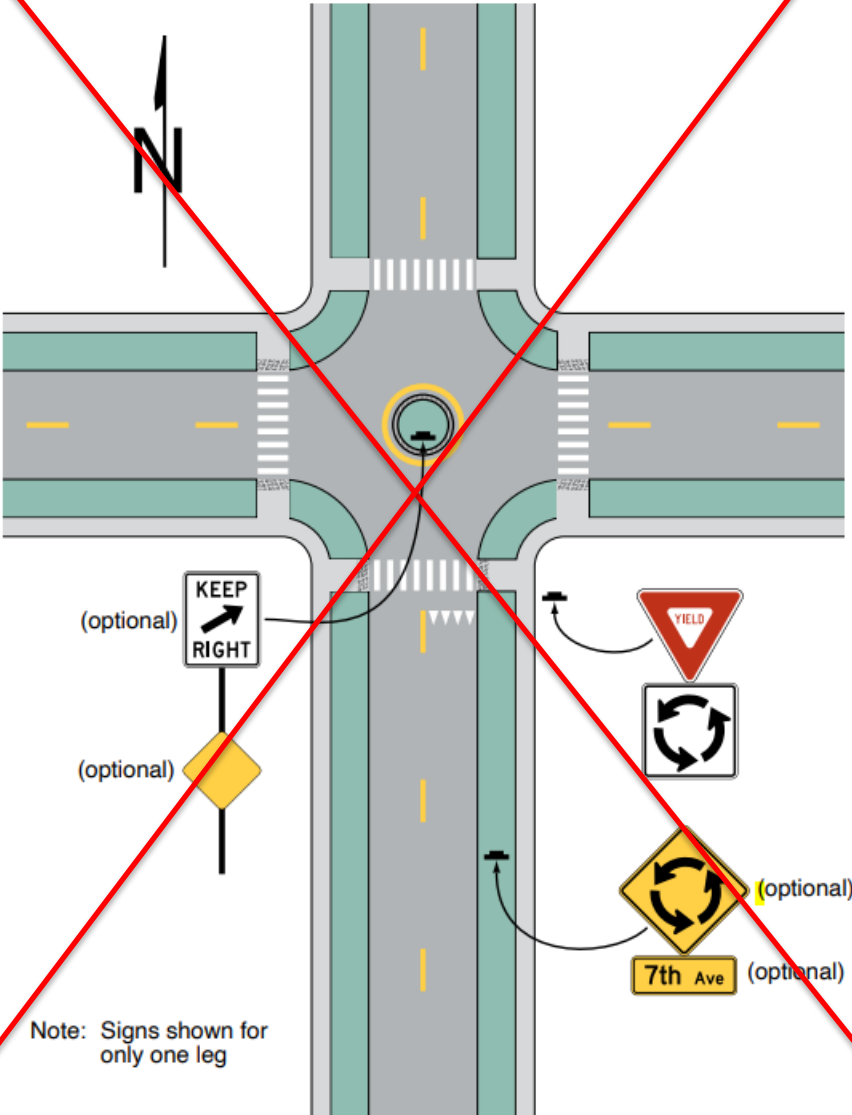
109 05 The Roundabout Circulation plaque may be used at any type of circular intersection.

110 Support:

111 06 Examples of regulatory and warning signs for roundabouts ~~and neighborhood traffic circles~~ are
112 shown in Figures 2B-21 through 2B-24~~3~~.

113
114 NOTE: Figures 2B-25 through 2B-34 would need to be renumbered accordingly (one less).
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Figure 2B-24. Example of Regulatory and Warning Signs for a Neighborhood Traffic Circle



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