

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

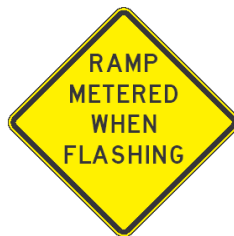
DATE OF ACTION: Approved by RWSTC 1-17-07; Approved 6-20-07 by RWSTC after sponsor comments with no changes.

TOPIC: Warning Signs, RAMP METERED WHEN FLASHING (SSW-6)

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Sections 2C.XX, Table 2C-1; Table 2C-2; Figure 2C-4

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 RAMP METERED WHEN FLASHING sign shown below.



Ramp metering signals are used in several States, usually only for peak-period conditions. During the unmetered off-peak hours, the ramp signals are turned off, as allowed by MUTCD Part 4. The States have developed a variety of their own designs to provide road users with advance warning of the ramp metering signal and whether or not it is in operation at any given time. The most commonly used wording is “Ramp Metered When Flashing” (accompanied by a flashing beacon which flashes when the ramp metering signal is in operation.) However, some States use different wording, such as “Ramp Meter Ahead” or “Ramp Signal Ahead”.

Recommendation:

A standard sign to warn of ramp metering with the uniform legend of “Ramp Metered When Flashing” should be considered for addition to the MUTCD. When used, this sign must be accompanied by a flashing beacon.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

Add Section 2C.XX, add to Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2 and Figure 2C-4

Section 2C.XX Advance Ramp Control Signal Signs (W3-X, W3-Y)

Option:

A RAMP METERED WHEN FLASHING (W3-X) sign or a RAMP METER AHEAD (W3-Y) sign (see Figure 2C-4) may be used in advance of a ramp control signal (See Chapter 4H).

Standard:

The RAMP METERED WHEN FLASHING (W3-X) sign shall be supplemented with a flashing beacon that flashes when the ramp control signal is in operation.

VOTE: For: Unanimous