

**RESCINDED
JANUARY 2024**

This Recommended
Change to the MUTCD
was rescinded by the
NCUTCD Council on
January 12, 2024.



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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ATTACHMENT NO. 2 RW Item No. 1

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices RWSTC RECOMMENDATION

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical
Committee**

DATE OF ACTION:

RWSTC Draft: Dec. 1, 2008

RWSTC Approval: January 7, 2009

RWSTC Approval following sponsor comments: June 18, 2009

Transmittal to Sponsors: March 2, 2009

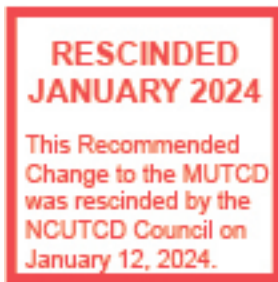
COUNCIL Approval Date: June 20, 2009

TOPIC: Warning Signs, WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC (SSW-23)

**AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2C.XX, Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2,
and Figure 2C-3 (Figure 2C-5 December 2007 NPA) or to Figure 2C-4 (2C-6
December 2007 NPA)**

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 and January 2007. The RSWTC recommended that twelve of these signs, or sets of signs be included in the MUTCD. One of the twelve signs is the WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC signs shown below.



4-line version



3-line version (preferred)

Except for the W3-4 BE PREPARED TO STOP sign in Section 2C.29 (Section 2C.35 in the December 2007 NPA), there is no standard sign in the MUTCD to warn road users of the possibility of vehicles stopping unexpectedly in the travel lane. Many practitioners do not believe that it is appropriate to use the BE PREPARED TO STOP sign outside of work zones or in locations other than in advance of a traffic control signal.

There can be many causes for these unexpected stoppages in traffic. Left turns and unexpected queues are the most obvious. Over 20 States use signs to warn of the possibility of stopped or almost stopped traffic due to turns or other unexpected conditions. Legends include “Watch for Stopped Vehicles” (or Traffic, or Trucks), “Watch for Turning Vehicles” (or Traffic, or Trucks), “Turning Traffic Ahead”, “Watch for Turns”, “Watch for Left Turning Vehicles”, “Trucks Turning”, “Watch for Turning Trucks”, “Bus Turn”, and other variations.

This sign may also have application in Part 6 *Temporary Traffic Control*.

RECOMMENDATION:

A sign with the legend WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC should be added to the MUTCD for optional use, to warn of stopped traffic at unexpected locations, regardless of what types of vehicles are stopped and regardless of whether they are turning or not.

Note: Proposed changes to the MUTCD are shown in underline red and removed text is shown in ~~strikethrough red~~.

RECOMMENDED WORDING: Add Section 2C.XX, add to Table 2C-1, Table 2C-2, and ~~Figure 2C-3 (Figure 2C-5 December 2007 NPA) or to~~ and Figure 2C-4 (2C-6 December 2007 NPA)

Section 2C.XX WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC Sign (WX-Z)

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Option:

WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC (WX-Z) sign (see Section 2C.XX) may
be used at locations where unexpected stops in traffic are likely to occur to warn
of the possibility of vehicles stopping unexpectedly in the travel lane.

Add the WX-Z sign to Figure 2C-4(2C-5 in the December 2007 NPA)

Table 2C-1 and Table 2C-2 - Add the WX-Z sign to Table 2C-1 and Table 2C-2

R/WS TC to SPONSORS, 2009-01-07

RWSTC Approval: 6-18-09

VOTE: For: Unanimous

Opposed:

Abstentions:

Council Approved: 6-20-09

u: ncutcd/January 2009/revisions to sponsors/ssw-23 watch for stopped traffic revised 6-
19-09