ATTACHMENT NO. 4

RW # 3, January 2011

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

RWSTC RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: (task force) 5-16-10, revised 5-25-10, revised 5-30-10, Revised 6-3-10, revised 6-9-10, revised 1-10-11 following sponsor comments

TASK FORCE: Tom Heydel (chair), Ron Lipps, Dan Paddick, Jim Pline

RWSTC APPROVAL DATE: 1-19-11

TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: 10-28-10

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: 1-20-11

TOPIC: Higher Fines Signs and Plaques (Review of NPA compared to 2009 MUTCD)

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Sections 2B.17, 6F.12 and 7B.10

DISCUSSION/QUESTION:

The 2009 MUTCD in Section 2B.17 indicates a SHALL condition for the installation of the BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign or FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) PLAQUE where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations with a designated zone of a roadway. Also, the END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign is also required.

Section 6F.12 indicates that the BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign and END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) should be installed when fines are increased in work zones for traffic violations. This contradicts Section 2B.17 which is a SHALL condition.

Section 7B.10 in the school area, the R2-10 and R2-11 BEGIN AND END HIGHER FINES ZONE signing is also a SHALL condition where fines are increased in school zones.

Section 7B.15 in the school area, the FINES HIGHER, FINES DOUBLE, OR $XX FINES plaque is also a SHALL condition where fines are increased in school zones.

Since many states have higher fines by statute in school zones, work zones and other locations this places an undo burden on states and municipalities to sign for every
The NPA Section 2B.17 had these signs as options. The Council approved that language on 1-12-08. The Council approved Section 7B.09 on 1-11-08 as an option statement. FHWA changed it to a SHALL condition. It was placed in Section 7B.10 of the 2009 MUTCD.

RECOMMENDATION:

Change Section 2B.17, 7B.10 and 7B.15 to a should condition rather than a SHALL condition for this engineering judgement as a should condition. This would then be consistent with Section 6F.12 which is a should condition for temporary traffic control situations.

Also, move the second sentence in paragraph (01) to the SHALL paragraph since the word SHALL is used in the sentence.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

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

Section 2B.17 Higher Fines Signs and Plaque (R2-6P, R2-10, and R2-11)

Standard:

01 If increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a designated zone of a roadway, a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign (see Figure 2B-3) or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) shall be used to provide notice to road users. If used, the FINES HIGHER plaque shall be mounted below an applicable regulatory or warning sign in a temporary traffic control zone, a school zone, or other applicable designated zone.

02 If an R2-10 sign or an R2-6P plaque is posted to provide notice of increased fines for traffic violations, an END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign (see Figure 2B-3) shall be installed at the downstream end of the zone to provide notice to road users of the termination of the increased fines zone.

Guidance:

03 If used, the BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE sign or FINES HIGHER plaque should be located at the beginning of the temporary traffic control zone, school zone, or other applicable designated zone and just beyond any interchanges, major intersections, or other major traffic generators.

Standard:

04 The Higher Fines signs and plaque shall have a black legend and border on a white rectangular background. All supplemental plaques mounted below the Higher Fines signs and plaque shall have a black legend and border on a white rectangular background.
The FINES HIGHER plaque shall be mounted below an applicable regulatory or warning sign in a temporary traffic control zone, a school zone, or other applicable designated zone.

Guidance:
Agencies should limit the use of the Higher Fines signs and plaque to locations where work is actually underway, or to locations where the roadway, shoulder, or other conditions, including the presence of a school zone and/or a reduced school speed limit zone, require a speed reduction or extra caution on the part of the road user. (Move this paragraph to above paragraph 4 with other guidance statements)

Option:
Alternate legends such as BEGIN (or END) DOUBLE FINES ZONE may also be used for the R2-10 and R2-11 signs.

Option:
The legend FINES HIGHER on the R2-6P plaque may be replaced by FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), $XX FINE (R2-6bP), or another legend appropriate to the specific regulation (see Figure 2B-3).

Option:
The following may be mounted below an R2-10 sign or R2-6P plaque:
A. A supplemental plaque specifying the times that the higher fines are in effect (similar to the S4-1P plaque shown in Figure 7B-1), or
B. A supplemental plaque WHEN CHILDREN (WORKERS) ARE PRESENT, or
C. A supplemental plaque WHEN FLASHING (similar to the S4-4P plaque shown in Figure 7B-1) if used in conjunction with a yellow flashing beacon.

Support:
Section 6F.12 contains information regarding other signs and plaques associated with increased fines for traffic violations in temporary traffic control zones. Section 7B.10 contains information regarding other signs and plaques associated with increased fines for traffic violations in designated school zones.

Section 7B.10 Higher Fines Zone Signs (R2-10, R2-11) and Plaques

Standard: Guidance:
Where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a designated school zone, a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign (see Figure 7B-1) or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P), FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), or $XX FINE (R2-6bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) shall be installed as a supplement to the School Zone (S1-1) sign to identify the beginning point of the higher fines zone (see Figures 7B-2 and 7B-3).

Option:
Where appropriate, one of the following plaques may be mounted below the sign that identifies the beginning point of the higher fines zone:
A. An S4-1P plaque (see Figure 7B-1) specifying the times that the higher fines are in effect,
B. A WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT (S4-2P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1), or
C. A WHEN FLASHING (S4-4P) plaque (see Figure 7B-1) if used in conjunction with a yellow flashing beacon.

Standard:
Where a BEGIN HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-10) sign or a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaque supplementing a School Zone (S1-1) sign is posted to notify road users of
increased fines for traffic violations, an END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign (see Figure 7B-1) or an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign shall be installed at the downstream end of the zone to notify road users of the termination of the increased fines zone (see Figures 7B-2 and 7B-3).

Section 7B.15  School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1P, S4-2P, S4-3P, S4-4P, S4-6P, S5-1) and END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT Sign (S5-3)

Standard:
01 A School Speed Limit assembly (see Figure 7B-1) or a School Speed Limit (S5-1) sign (see Figure 7B-1) shall be used to indicate the speed limit where a reduced school speed limit zone has been established based upon an engineering study or where a reduced school speed limit is specified for such areas by statute. The School Speed Limit assembly or School Speed Limit sign shall be placed at or as near as practical to the point where the reduced school speed limit zone begins (see Figures 7B-3 and 7B-5).

02 If a reduced school speed limit zone has been established, a School (S1-1) sign shall be installed in advance (see Table 2C-4 for advance placement guidelines) of the first School Speed Limit sign assembly or S5-1 sign that is encountered in each direction as traffic approaches the reduced school speed limit zone (see Figures 7B-3 and 7B-5).

03 Where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a reduced school speed limit zone, a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P), FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), or $XX FINE (R2-6bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) shall be installed as a supplement to the reduced school speed limit sign to notify road users.

04 Except as provided in Paragraph 5, the downstream end of an authorized and posted reduced school speed limit zone shall be identified with an END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign (see Figures 7B-1 and 7B-5).

Option:
05 If a reduced school speed limit zone ends at the same point as a higher fines zone, an END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign may be used instead of a combination of an END HIGHER FINES ZONE (R2-11) sign and an END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign.

06 A standard Speed Limit sign showing the speed limit for the section of highway that is downstream from the authorized and posted reduced school speed limit zone may be mounted on the same post above the END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign or the END SCHOOL ZONE (S5-2) sign.

Guidance:
07 The beginning point of a reduced school speed limit zone should be at least 200 feet in advance of the school grounds, a school crossing, or other school related activities; however, this 200-foot distance should be increased if the reduced school speed limit is 30 mph or higher.

08 Where increased fines are imposed for traffic violations within a reduced school speed limit zone, a FINES HIGHER (R2-6P), FINES DOUBLE (R2-6aP), or $XX FINE (R2-6bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-3) should be installed as a supplement to the reduced school speed limit sign to notify road users. If the FINES HIGHER, FINES DOUBLE, or $XX FINES plaque is used as shown in Section 7B.10, then the duplicate plaque shown in this section is not necessary.
Standard:

The School Speed Limit assembly shall be either a fixed-message sign assembly or a changeable message sign.

The fixed-message School Speed Limit assembly shall consist of a top plaque (S4-3P) with the legend SCHOOL, a Speed Limit (R2-1) sign, and a bottom plaque (S4-1P, S4-2P, S4-4P, or S4-6P) indicating the specific periods of the day and/or days of the week that the special school speed limit is in effect (see Figure 7B-1).

Option:

Changeable message signs (see Chapter 2L and Section 6F.60) may be used to inform drivers of the school speed limit. If the sign is internally illuminated, it may have a white legend on a black background. Changeable message signs with flashing beacons may be used for situations where greater emphasis of the special school speed limit is needed.

Guidance:

Even though it might not always be practical because of special features to make changeable message signs conform in all respects to the standards in this Manual for fixed-message signs, during the periods that the school speed limit is in effect, their basic shape, message, legend layout, and colors should comply with the standards for fixed-message signs.

A confirmation light or device to indicate that the speed limit message is in operation should be considered for inclusion on the back of the changeable message sign.

Standard:

Fluorescent yellow-green pixels shall be used when the "SCHOOL" message is displayed on a changeable message sign for a school speed limit.

Option:

Changeable message signs may use blank-out messages or other methods in order to display the school speed limit only during the periods it applies.

Changeable message signs that display the speed of approaching drivers (see Section 2B.13) may be used in a school speed limit zone.

A Speed Limit Sign Beacon (see Section 4L.04) also may be used, with a WHEN FLASHING legend, to identify the periods that the school speed limit is in effect.

RWSTC Vote:  For: 21
Opposed: 1
Abstentions: 0

COUNCIL VOTE: For: Unanimous

APPROVED  January 2011
c: NCUTCD/Jan 2011 meetings/fines higher signing 5-25-10, revised 5-30-10, revised 6-3-10, revised 6-9-10, revised 1-10-11 revised 1-19-11 following sponsor comments, 1-20-11