National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

RWSTC agenda item IV. 1 (June 2011)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: TASK FORCE 8-6-10, revised 8-22-10, 1-2-11, revised 6-5-11 and 6-11-11

FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS

TASK FORCE: Tom Heydel (chair), Doug Bartlett, Dan Paddick, Ron Lipps, Dave Woosley, Herman Hill, Bob Seyfried

RWSTC APPROVAL DATE: 1-19-11

TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: Spring 2011

RWSTC APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS: 6-22-11

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: 6-23-11

TOPIC: Traffic Signal Photo Enforcement (Red Light) Sign

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2B.55, Table 2B-1, Figure 2B-3 (2009 MUTCD)

DISCUSSION:

The Synthesis of Signs conducted by FHWA also included a recommendation to include a Photo Enforcement sign.

The current edition of the MUTCD does not have a sign that can be specifically used at a signalized intersection where Red Light Running (RLR) Cameras are in use. The TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED sign is intended to be used at jurisdictional boundaries. When used in this fashion, it would normally be installed on all roadways entering the jurisdiction. Using this sign for a large municipality with many entering roadways would be cost prohibitive.

The other options in the current MUTCD are the Photo Enforced (R10-19P) plaque or the PHOTO ENFORCED (R10-19aP) word message plaque. These plaques are intended to be mounted below existing regulatory signs. There are limited options of existing regulatory traffic signal signs below which these plaques could be mounted to convey this message. The STOP HERE ON RED (R10-6 or R10-6a) signs could be used but many jurisdictions only install the STOP HERE ON RED sign where there is a documented issue with motorists observing the proper stopping location and the sign is at the intersection which may be too late for drivers to be informed of the regulation.
The final option in the current MUTCD is to use the Photo Enforced (W16-10P) plaque or the PHOTO ENFORCED (W16-10aP) word message plaque below a Signal Ahead (W3-3) sign. As Signal Ahead signs are often only employed where there is a sight distance restriction, there are many intersections where these plaques can only be used if unwarranted Signal Ahead signs are installed.

As a result of this lack of an appropriate sign, many jurisdictions have developed a sign to be used for this application. Examples of the various signs developed are as follows:

![Sign 1 (Rec.)](image1)
![Sign 2](image2)
![Sign 3](image3)

![Sign 4](image4)
![Sign 5](image5)

Missouri has requested interim approval for a new regulatory sign incorporating a new symbol for traffic signal photo enforcement based upon the completed official experimentation 2-595(E) MO New Symbol for Traffic Signal Photo Enforcement. This report found that the experimental sign with a signal head symbol was more correctly identified (79.6%) by survey participants than the standard word message sign with legend of “PHOTO ENFORCED” (75.1%). Missouri experimented with Sign 1 as shown above.

The RWSTC at its June 2010 meeting discussed the background color and voted in favor of the white background as a “notice” regulatory sign. New Jersey, in conjunction with a five year pilot program for RLR Cameras, opted for Sign 2 as shown above. Sign 2 is used in Maryland as well as NJ, Sign # 3 is used in Phoenix, Arizona, Sign 4 is used in Washington, D.C., and Sign 5 is used in Hillsborough County, Florida. The general feeling was that the additional text would assist motorists in understanding the new program and generate fewer complaints from motorists who were cited.

**NOTE:** Proposed changes to the 2009 MUTCD are shown in **underline red** and removed text are shown in **strikethrough red.**
RECOMMENDED WORDING:

Move Section 2B.55 to immediately follow section 2B.17 (Higher Fines signs). This would place it on the page following the figure where the signs are located (Figure 2B-3).

Section 2B.55 Photo Enforced Signs and Plaques (R10-18, R10-19P, R10-19aP, R10-XX)

Option:

01 A TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED (R10-18) sign (see Figure 2B-3) may be installed at a jurisdictional boundary to advise road users that some of the traffic regulations within that jurisdiction are being enforced by photographic equipment.

02 A Photo Enforced (R10-19P) plaque or a PHOTO ENFORCED (R10-19aP) word message plaque (see Figure 2B-3) may be mounted below a regulatory sign to advise road users that the regulation is being enforced by photographic equipment.

03 A Traffic Signal PHOTO ENFORCED Sign (R10-XX sign (see Figure 2B-3) may be installed in advance of or at a traffic signal to advise road users that signal compliance is being enforced by photographic equipment.

Standard:

04-04 If used below a regulatory sign, the Photo Enforced (R10-19P or R10-19aP) plaque shall be a rectangle with a black legend and border on a white background.

Figure 2B-3 Speed Limit and Photo Enforcement Signs and Plaques

Add R10-XX sign.

Table 2B-1 Add R10-XX sign.

RWSTC VOTE: For: Unanimous

Opposed:

Abstentions:

Council VOTE: For: Unanimous

C: NCUTCD/January 2011 meeting/red light enforcement sign revised 8-22-10, 1-1-11, 1-19-11, 1-22-11, 6-5-11 revised, revised 6-11-11, updated 6-22-11, 6-23-11