TOPIC: Section 2C.10 (proposed 2Q.04) Combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed Signs (W1-1a, W1-2a)

AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2C.10

BACKGROUND:
In December 2013 the RWSTC received from FHWA, their proposed edits to Chapter 2C along with other chapters. These edits included all the previously approved NCUTCD Council items verbatim. The FHWA remarks are highlighted in green.

It is FHWA’s intention to issue an NPA in November 2014. FHWA requested NCUTCD input by July 2014.

RESEARCH:
None

DISCUSSION:
In Section 2C.10, FHWA proposed changing the term “Combination” to “Supplemental”. The RWSTC agreed with this change at their January 2014 meeting but no vote was actually taken. Since this change involves a change in language to the MUTCD and was not previously approved by Council, this FHWA proposal is being sent to sponsors for comment. FHWA proposed changes as shown in blue below.
After reviewing Sponsor Comments, the far from unanimous consensus of the task force was that the sign was both a combination sign and a supplemental sign and that it should be referred to as the “Combination Supplemental Horizontal Turn (Curve) Advisory Speed sign.

There was also considerable discussion over whether the sign had to be used alone. The task force is unaware on any research that indicates that this sign when used alone is any more or less effective than the tradition W1-1 “Turn” sign or the traditional W1-2 “Curve” sign used with a W13-1P Advisory Speed plaque. This might be a good issue for future research.

Following sponsor comments RWSTC recommended in June 2014 staying with the present 2009 MUTCD language which uses the term “combination” rather than “supplemental” since the sign is a “combination” sign in the sense that it has the speed contained with the diamond warning sign. The standard statement requires that this sign not be used in advance of the curve as a substitute for the advance curve warning sign and advisory speed plaque.

The task force also eliminated the phrase “based upon an engineering study” from the end of the second Option statement. It just seems to be hanging there. It appears to refer to the Advisory Speed plaque. Paragraph 02 of Section 2C.08 and paragraph 04 of this Section already address the engineering study required for the Advisory Speed plaque.

RECOMMENDED WORDING:

Section 2C.10 2Q.04 Combination Combination Supplemental Horizontal
       Alignment/ and (delete “and”) Advisory Speed Signs (W1-1a, W1-2a) Name of the sign changed to better describe its use, which is not a replacement of the Advance Warning sign/plaque assembly

Following sponsor comments, RWSTC recommends that the original 2009 MUTCD language be retained which uses the the term “combination” as shown herein rather than “supplemental” term suggested by FHWA

Option:
The Turn (W1-1) sign or the Curve (W1-2) sign may be combined with the Advisory Speed (W13-1P) plaque (see Section 2C.08) to create a combination supplemental combination
Turn and (delete “and”) Advisory Speed (W1-1a) sign or combination supplemental combination Curve and Advisory Speed (W1-2a) sign (see Figure 2C-1).

The combination Horizontal Alignment and Advisory Speed sign may be used to supplement the advance Horizontal Alignment warning sign and Advisory Speed plaque based upon an engineering study.

Standard:

If used, the combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed sign shall not be used alone and shall not be used as a substitute for a Horizontal Alignment warning sign and Advisory Speed plaque at the advance warning location. The combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed sign shall only be used as a supplement to the advance Horizontal Alignment warning sign. If used, the combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed sign shall be installed at the beginning of the turn or curve.

Guidance:

The advisory speed displayed on the combination supplemental Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed sign should be based on the advisory speed for the horizontal curve using recommended engineering practices (see Section 2C.08).

RWSTC VOTE: 3-16-14

For: 26
Opposed: 1
Abstentions: 1

RWSTC VOTE 6-25-14 following sponsor comments:

For: 18
Opposed: 7
Abstentions: 0

COUNCIL VOTE: 6-26-14

For: 38
Opposed: 0
Abstentions: 1

C:NCUTC/D/June 2014/RW # 4 Section 2C-10 (new section 2Q-04) Combination Curve revised 3-5-14, updated 3-8-14, updated 3-16-14, approved by RWSTC following sponsor comments 6-25-14, approved by Council 6-26-14