



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

13236 North 7th Street, Suite 4-259, Phoenix, Arizona 85022
Phone/Text: 231-4-NCUTCD (231-462-8823)
E-mail: secretary@ncutcd.org Website: <https://ncutcd.org>

Item No.: 24B-RR-01

NCUTCD RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGES TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Railroad & Light Rail Transit Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 24B-RR-01
TOPIC: Exempt Plaques at LRT Grade Crossings
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: RRLRT Technical Committee
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 8B.11, EXEMPT Grade Crossing Plaques (R15-3P and W10-1aP)

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by RRLRT TC: 06/27/2024 and 01/08/2025
Approved by NCUTCD Council: 01/10/2025

This is a recommended change to the MUTCD that has been approved by the NCUTCD Council. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. It will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.

SUMMARY:

The proposal resolves a conflict between the definition of a sign plaque in Part 1 and the provisions in Section 8B.11 that permit an EXEMPT plaque to be installed on its own post at highway-LRT grade crossings.

DISCUSSION:

By definition, a sign plaque supplements another sign and Part 1 states that a plaque cannot be used alone. Per Section 8B.03 Paragraph 5, Grade Crossing (Crossbuck) signs (R15-1) are optional at highway-LRT grade crossings where flashing-light signals or automatic gates are not used. Per Section 8B.06 Paragraph 1, Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1 through W10-4) signs are not required at highway-LRT grade crossings where Crossbuck signs are not used. At highway-LRT grade crossings where Crossbuck or Grade Crossing Advance Warning signs are not used, the Option statement in Section 8B.11 permits an EXEMPT plaque to be installed alone, which conflicts with the definition of a plaque.

The EXEMPT plaque needs to be installed as a supplemental sign to a Regulatory or Warning sign to communicate a clear message to road users. This proposal adds a new Guidance

34 statement that a Crossbuck or Grade Crossing Advance Warning sign be installed if an EXMPT
35 plaque is used at the highway-LRT grade crossing.

36
37 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**
38 The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the
39 current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and
40 proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously
41 approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double
42 underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases,
43 background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated
44 by bracketed white text in shaded green.

46
47 **PART 8 RAILROAD AND LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT GRADE CROSSINGS**

48
49 **CHAPTER 8B. SIGNS**

50
51 **Section 8B.11 EXEMPT Grade Crossing Plaques (R15-3P and W10-1aP)**

52 Option:
53 01 Where authorized by law or regulation, an EXEMPT (R15-3P) plaque (see Figure 8B-1) with a white
54 background may be used below the Crossbuck sign or Number of Tracks plaque, if present, at the grade
55 crossing, and an EXEMPT (W10-1aP) plaque (see Figure 8B-4) with a yellow background may be used
56 below the Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1 through W10-4) sign.

57 ~~02—Where neither the Crossbuck sign nor the advance warning signs exist for a particular highway LRT~~
58 ~~grade crossing, an EXEMPT (R15-3P) plaque with a white background may be placed on its own post on~~
59 ~~the near right hand side of the approach to the crossing.~~ The Option paragraph 02 is proposed to be
60 deleted in its entirety.

61 Support:
62 0302 These plaques inform drivers of motor vehicles carrying passengers for hire, school buses
63 carrying students, or motor vehicles carrying hazardous materials that a stop is not required at
64 certain designated grade crossings, except when rail traffic is approaching or occupying the
65 grade crossing, or the driver's view is blocked.