



## Signs of the Time: Updating the Minnesota MUTCD

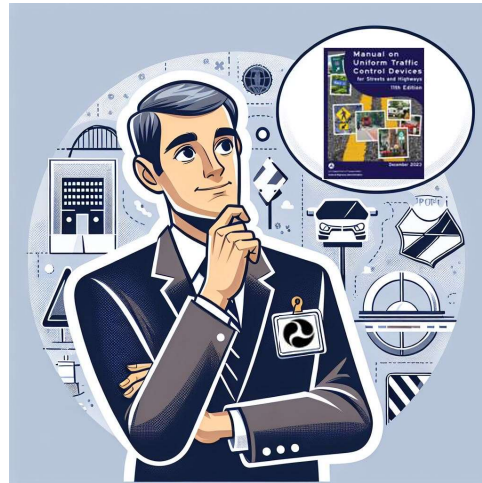
December 16, 2025

Tiffany Kautz | Traffic Standards

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Before we get started, I need to tell you two things...

1. I can't speak for FHWA.
2. I can't tell you what to do.



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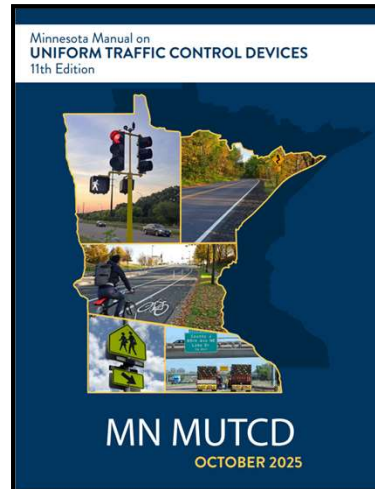
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## At the end of this presentation, I will be able to...

- Understand Minnesota's obligation to align with the National MUTCD and the limitations on state-specific modifications.
- Navigate the updated MN MUTCD by efficiently locating information and identifying Minnesota-specific language.
- List major changes in the MN MUTCD, 11th Edition, by identifying key updates.



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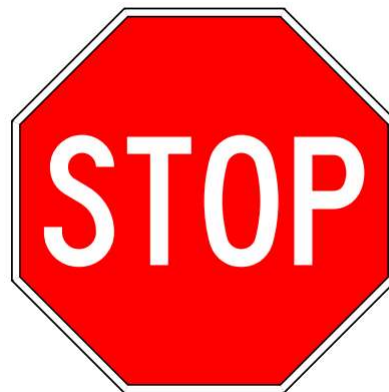
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## Why the MN MUTCD is important?

- Establishes criteria for the use of traffic control devices
- Promotes safety
- Provides clear and uniform messaging to roadway users
- Ensures consistency across Minnesota and the country



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## Substantial Conformance: What is it and why is it important?

- National MUTCD is backbone of Minnesota MUTCD
  - 929 changes made
- Substantial Conformance
  - FHWA Division Office

### 23 CFR 655.603 (b)(1):

...State MUTCD...shall conform as a minimum to the Standard statements included in the national MUTCD. ...The Guidance statements contained in the national MUTCD shall also be in the State MUTCD...

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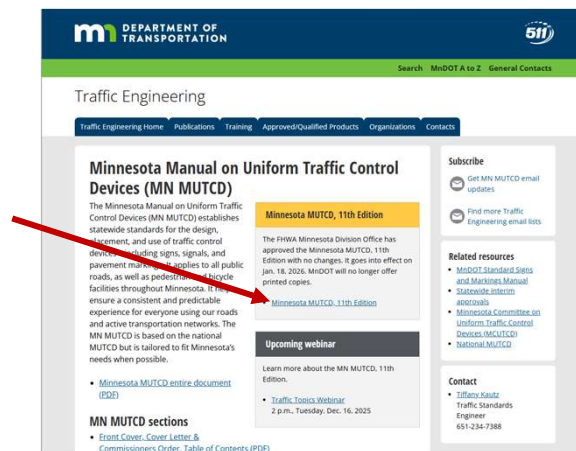
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## Navigating the MN MUTCD

- Favorite Search Engine
  - Search "MN MUTCD"
- <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/publ/mutcd/>



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## Navigating the MN MUTCD: General

- Following National Layout
  - 🌈 Paragraph Numbers 🌈 match the National MUTCD
  - Signs no longer embedded in Sections
- Minnesota Temporary Traffic Control Field Manual – REMOVED
- Minnesota Flagging Handbook – REMOVED
- Lots of Minnesota language removed.



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## Navigating the MN MUTCD: National Changes

- Traffic Control Devices for Low Volume Roads (Part 5) – Incorporated
- Organization Changes:
  - Subchapters included in Chapters 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G
  - More Chapters
 

Example: Part 4 Highway Traffic Signals now has 21 Chapters, not 16.
- Lots of movement!

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## Navigating the MN MUTCD: Blue Text and Sign Codes

- Section 1A.04.1, Format of the Minnesota MUTCD

- Blue Text = Minnesota Text
- (M) = modification to a paragraph, figure, etc.
- Tenths of number = Minnesota addition
- REMOVED = Minnesota removal

- Sign Designs:

- Sign Codes with "M" or "X" = Minnesota Designs

- National Known Errors (as of Jan 24, 2025):

- Included
- Not considered Minnesota text

### Section 2A.05 Shapes

#### Standard:

01 Particular shapes, as shown in Table 2A-1, shall be used exclusively for specific signs or series of signs, unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a particular sign or class of signs.

02 The Crossbuck is a shape exclusive to the Grade Crossing (R15-1) sign and shall not be obscured by mounting a different shape sign on the back of the Crossbuck (see Section 8B.03).

02.1 The octagon is a shape exclusive to the STOP (R1-1) sign and shall not be fully concealed by mounting a different shape sign on the back of the STOP sign.

#### Guidance:

03 00 Shapes that are exclusive to a particular sign (such as an octagon for STOP, an equilateral triangle (downward-pointing) for YIELD, a pentagon for NO PASSING ZONE, or a circle for Railroad Advance) should not be obscured by another sign mounted on the back of the same assembly protruding or extending beyond the edge of the sign with the exclusive shape. The following methods should be considered in lieu of mounting a sign on the back of another sign that would obscure the exclusive shape of the sign:

- Install the signs on separate mountings to maintain the exclusive shape.
- Increase the size of the sign with the exclusive shape so the sign installed on the back does not obscure its shape.
- Increase the mounting height of the sign with the exclusive shape to allow the installation of a back-mounted sign below the bottom edge while still ensuring the minimum required mounting height for the lower sign.

Shape	Signs
Octagon*	Stop (R1-1)**
Equilateral Triangle (downward-pointing)*	Yield (R1-2)**
Circle*	Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1)*
Pennant (isosceles Triangle with longer axis horizontal, pointed right)*	No Passing Zone (W14-3)*
Pentagon (upward-pointing)*	School (S1-1) (squared bottom corners)* County Route (M1-6M) (tapered lower sides)**
Crossbuck (two rectangles in a perpendicular "X" configuration)*	Grade Crossing (R15-1)*
Diamond	Warning Series
Rectangle (including square)	Regulatory Series Guide Series** Warning Series

\* This shape shall be limited exclusively to the sign(s) indicated.

\*\* This sign shall be exclusively the shape shown.

\*\*\* Guide series includes general service, specific service, tourist-oriented directional, general information, recreational and cultural interest area, and emergency management signs.

Note: Signs with standardized designs shall not be modified to accommodate a different shape except as provided in this Manual.

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## Review: Standard, Guidance, Option, Support

### Standard (Section 1C.01, Par.1, A):

a statement of required, mandatory, or specifically prohibitive practice regarding a traffic control device. In limited, location-specific cases, the results of a documented engineering study (see Section 1D.03) might indicate a deviation from one or more requirements of a Standard provision to be appropriate. All Standard statements are labeled, and the text appears in bold type. The verb "shall" is typically used. The verbs "should" and "may" are not used in Standard statements. Standard statements are sometimes modified by Option statements.

### Guidance (Section 1C.01, Par. 1, B):

a statement of recommended practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgment or engineering study (see Section 1D.03) indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements are labeled, and the text appears in unbold italic type. The verb "should" is typically used. The verbs "shall" and "may" are not used in Guidance statements. Guidance statements are sometimes modified by Option statements.

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## Review: **Standard**, *Guidance*, Option, Support

### Option (Section 1C.01, Par.1, C):

**a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation.**

Option statements sometimes contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance statement. All Option statements are labeled, and the text appears in unbold type. The verb “may” is typically used. The verbs “shall” and “should” are not used in Option statements.

### Support (Section 1C.01, Par. 1, D):

**an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition.**

Support statements are labeled, and the text appears in unbold type. The verbs “shall,” “should,” and “may” are not used in Support statements.

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## Review: What roads must follow the MN MUTCD?

### Section 1B.01, National Standard, Par. 2 (Standard)

#### 02 ...the MUTCD shall apply to all of the following types of facilities:

- A. **Any street, roadway, or bikeway open to public travel**, either publicly or privately owned;
- B. Streets and roadways on sites that are off the public right-of-way that are open to public travel without full-time access restrictions...;
- C. Publicly-owned toll roads, including those under the jurisdiction of a public agency, public authority, or public-private partnership;
- D. Privately-owned toll roads where the public is allowed to travel without access restriction. This includes gated toll roads or roadways where the general public is able to pay to access the facility; and
- E. **Grade crossings of publicly-owned roadways with railroads or light rail transit.**

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## Review: What roads must follow the MN MUTCD?

Section 1B.01, National Standard, Par. 3 (Standard)

03 The MUTCD shall **not** apply to the following types of facilities:

- A. Roadways within private gated properties where access to the general public is restricted at all times;
- B. Grade crossings of privately-owned roadways with railroads; and
- C. **Parking areas**, including the driving aisles within those parking areas, that are either publicly or privately owned.

What's a "Parking area"? (Section 1C.02, Par 3, #156)

**Parking Area**—a parking lot or parking garage that is separated from a roadway. Parallel, perpendicular, or angle parking spaces along a roadway are not considered a parking area.

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## Review: What if the MN MUTCD is silent?

Section 1B.03, Compliance of Devices, Par. 8 (Standard):

08 **Design, application, and placement of traffic control devices other than those adopted in this Manual shall be prohibited** unless the provisions of Sections 1B.04 through 1B.08 are followed regarding official interpretations, experiments, changes to the MUTCD, and interim approvals granted by the FHWA.

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## What happens after Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>?

Section 1B.03, Par. 3 (Standard):

**After the effective date of a new edition of the MUTCD or a revision thereto, or after the adoption thereof by the State, whichever occurs later, new or reconstructed devices installed shall comply with the new edition or revision, as required by 23 CFR 655.603.**

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## What happens after Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>?

Section 1B.03, Par. 3 (Standard):

After the ( **ATTRITION** ) of the MUTCD or a revision of by the State, which ever occurs later, new or reconstructed devices installed shall comply with the new edition or revision, as required by 23 CFR 655.603.

**EXCEPT items with target compliance dates!**

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## Compliance Dates: When are they? Which items have them?

**Table 1B-1 (M). Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA**

MUTCD Section(s)	Subject Area	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2B.64	Weight Limit Signs	Paragraph 14 - requirement for additional Weight Limit sign with the advisory distance or directional legend in advance of applicable section of highway or structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 8 - Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	January 18, 2029
3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed to maintain retroreflectivity of longitudinal pavement markings (see Paragraph 1 of Section 3A.05)	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraphs 3 and 7 - Recommended installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion signs and detour signs for vehicles with low ground clearances that might hang up on high-profile grade crossings at locations with a known history	January 18, 2029
8D.09 through 8D.12	Highway Traffic Signals at or Near Grade Crossings	Assessment and determination of appropriate treatment to achieve compliance (preemption, movement prohibition, pre-signals, queue cutter signals)	January 18, 2034

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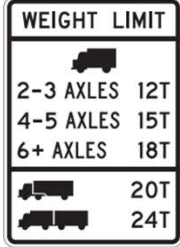
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R12-1	R12-2	R12-4	R12-5	R12-6

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2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
8D.09 through 8D.12	Highway Traffic Signals at or Near Grade Crossings	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2034

W12-2

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2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 8 - Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	January 18, 2029
	Maintaining	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed	



W12-2a



W12-2b

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## Compliance Dates: When are they? Which items have them?

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3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed to maintain retroreflectivity of longitudinal pavement markings (see Paragraph 1 of Section 3A.05)	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraphs 3 and 7 - Recommended installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion signs and detour signs for vehicles with low ground clearances that might hang up on high-profile grade crossings at locations with a known history	January 18, 2029
8D.09 through 8D.12	Highway Traffic Signals at or Near Grade Crossings	Assessment and determination of appropriate treatment to achieve compliance (preemption, movement prohibition, pre-signals, queue cutter signals)	January 18, 2034

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## Compliance Dates: When are they? Which items have them?

MUTCD Section(s)	Subject Area	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2B.64	Weight Limit Signs	Paragraph 14 - requirement for additional Weight Limit sign with the advisory distance or directional legend in advance of applicable section of highway or structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 8 - Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	January 18, 2029
3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed to maintain retroreflectivity of longitudinal pavement markings (see Paragraph 1 of Section 3A.05)	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraphs 3 and 7 - Recommended installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion signs and detour signs for vehicles with low ground clearances that might hang up on high-profile grade crossings at locations with a known history	January 18, 2029
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**Table 1B-1 (M). Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA**

MUTCD Section(s)	Subject Area	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2B.64	Weight Limit Signs	Paragraph 14 - requirement for additional Weight Limit sign with the advisory distance or directional legend in advance of applicable section of highway or structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 8 - Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	January 18, 2029
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## Removals: Helmeted Bike Symbol

Supplemental Summary of Final Rule Dispositions:

...include a single symbol for bicycle symbol pavement markings to enable a single symbol used for bicycle signs and pavement markings thereby enhancing uniformity and recognition of bicycle symbols.

See **Section 9E.01** for more information.



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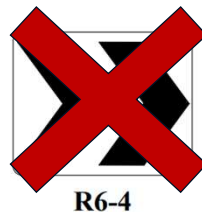
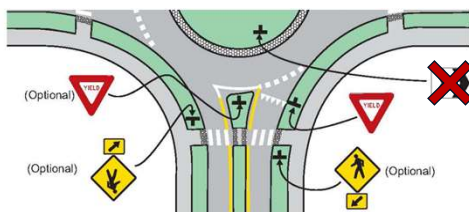
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## Removals: Roundabout Directional Arrow

Supplemental Summary of Final Rule Dispositions:

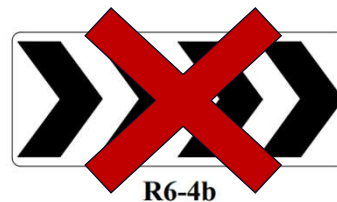
...delete existing Section 2B.43 Roundabout Directional Arrow Signs, because the design of the R6-4 series signs...confounds a warning sign with a regulation and...have become prone to misuse.



R6-4



R6-4a



R6-4b

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## Removals: Roundabout Directional Arrows

- ONE WAY Signs (R6-1 and R6-2), Section 2B.49, Par. 12 (Option)

...ONE WAY signs may be used to direct traffic counter-clockwise around the central island...

- Not Allowed:

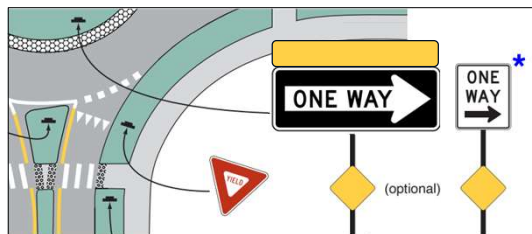
- Chevron Alignment Sign (W1-8), Section 2C.08, Par. 11 (Standard):

**Chevron Alignment signs...shall not be used in the central island of a roundabout or a neighborhood traffic circle.**

- One-Direction Large Arrow Sign (W1-6), Section 2C.10, Par. 6 (Standard):

**The One-Direction Large Arrow sign...shall not be used in the central island of a roundabout or a neighborhood traffic circle.**

Figure 2B-22 (M).  
Example of  
Regulatory and  
Warning Signs for  
a One-Lane  
Roundabout



\*See Section 2A.11 for  
more information on  
Enhanced Conspicuity for  
Standard Signs.

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## Removals: RIGHT/LEFT LANE CLOSED

Section 2A.04, Design of Signs:

Par. 10 (Standard)

**Where a standard word message is applicable, the wording shall be as provided in this Manual.**

Par. 13 (M) (Standard)

**Where a standard sign provided in this Manual...an alternative legend sign...shall not be allowed in place of the standardized legend...**



W20-X5



W20-5



W20-X13



W20-5a

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## Removals: Honorable Mentions

- This is not a complete list.



See Sections 2C.67  
and 9C.08

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W16-1P\*



W16-1aP\*



W1-1a



W1-2a

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W1-1 and  
W13-1P



W1-2 and  
W13-1P



W9-2

It's  
complicated!  
See Section  
2C.47.

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## Sign Designs: Route Signs

Section 2D.11, Design of Route Signs:

Par. 9.1 (Standard):

The Minnesota Route (M1-5M) sign (See Figure 2D-4) shall consist of a rectangular shape with a white route number on a blue background with a yellow border, and a yellow band across the top with a silhouette of Minnesota and word MINNESOTA in upper-case letters in blue.



M1-5M



M1-5M

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## Sign Designs: Route Signs

Section 2D.11, Design of Route Signs:

Par. 14 (M) (Standard):

If county road authorities elect to establish and identify a **special system of important county roads**, a statewide policy for such signing shall be established... The County Route (M1-6M) sign...shall consist of a pentagon shape with a **yellow**...route number...



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Par. 14.1 (Standard):

The **special system of important county roads** as discussed in Paragraph 14 of this Section shall be the **County State Aid Highway system**.

Par. 14.3 (Option):

For county roads not identified as part of the County State Aid Highway system, a County Route (M1-6M) sign or County Route (M1-X4) sign may be used.



M1-X4

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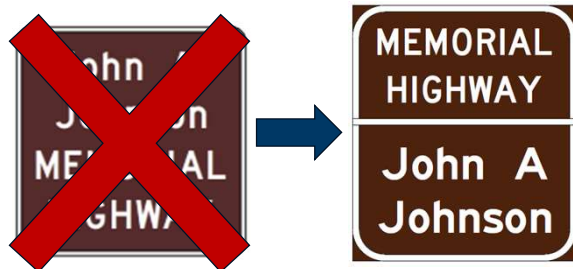
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## Sign Designs: Memorial Signs

Section 2M.10, Memorial or Dedication Signing

Par. 8 (Standard):

...The legend displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be limited to the name of the person or entity being recognized and a simple message **preceding** the name...



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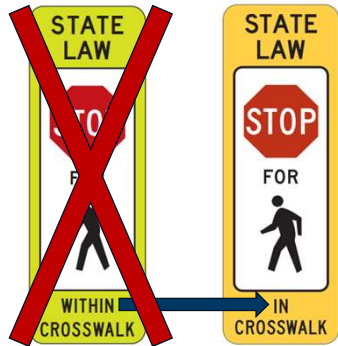
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## Sign Designs: Honorable Mentions

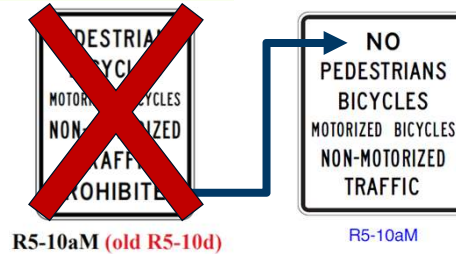
- This is not a complete list



R1-6a

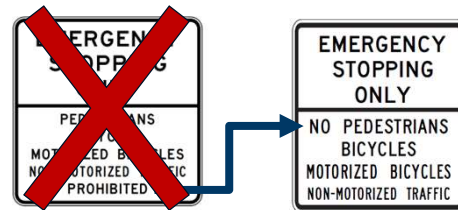
Fluorescent yellow-green is still allowed.

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R5-10aM (old R5-10d)

R5-10aM



R8-7M (old R16-X4)

R8-7M

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## Signing: Route Sign Assemblies

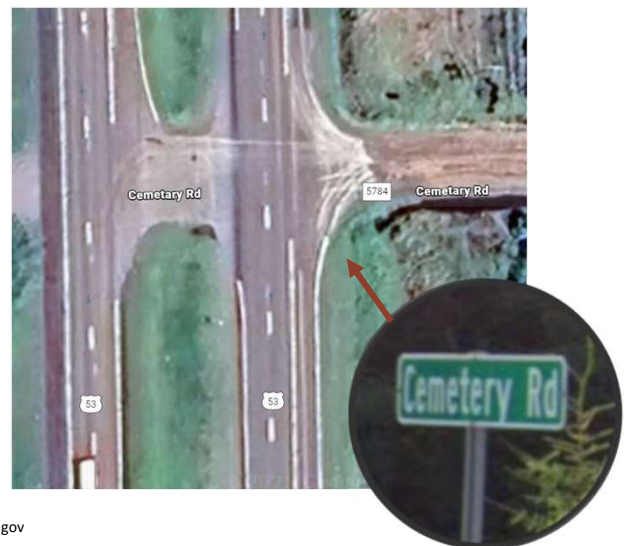
Section 2D.29, Route Sign Assemblies:

Par. 1 (Standard):

**...Except as provided in Paragraph 9 of this Section, Route Sign assemblies shall be installed on all approaches to numbered routes that intersect with other numbered routes.**

Par. 9 (Option): 🎉 NEW! 🎉

Route Sign assemblies may be omitted for routes that are part of an agency's internal numbering system...and are not...intended to be used for navigational purposes by the general public...



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## Signing: Sign Shapes and Back-to-Back Mounting

### Section 2A.05 Shapes

#### Par. 2.1 (Standard)

The octagon is a shape exclusive to the STOP (R1-1) sign and shall not be fully concealed by mounting a different shape sign on the back of the STOP sign.



Shall  
not

#### Par. 3 (M) (Guidance)

Shapes that are exclusive to a particular sign (such as an octagon for STOP...) should not be obscured by another sign mounted on the back of the same assembly protruding or extending beyond the edge of the sign with the exclusive shape.



Should  
not

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## Signing: Vehicle Speed Feedback Signs

### Section 2C.13, Vehicle Speed Feedback sign and Plaque

#### Par. 2 (Standard):

When used to display the speed of an approaching vehicle in relation to the posted speed limit, the Vehicle Speed Feedback (W13-20aP) plaque shall be mounted below a Speed Limit (R2-1) sign (see Section 2B.21).

#### Par. 4 (Standard)

The legend YOUR SPEED shall be a black legend on a yellow retroreflective background...plaque shall not flash, strobe, change color, or use other animated elements integrated into the changeable legend display...



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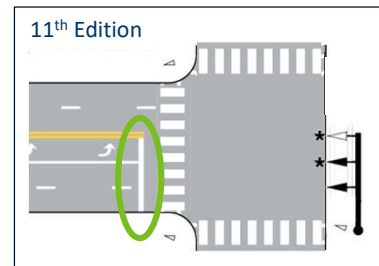
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## Pavement Markings: Stop Lines at Signals

11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Section 3B.19, Par. 4 (Guidance)

*Stop lines should be used to indicate the point behind which vehicles are required to stop in compliance with a traffic control signal (see Section 4D.08).*



1<sup>st</sup> Option:

~~A stop line may be omitted on an approach to a traffic control signal if a crosswalk line of at least 24 inches in width is in place for that approach.~~

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## Pavement Markings: Shared Use Paths

Section 9E.13, Par. 5 (Standard)

**Where a shared-use path crosses a roadway, crosswalk markings shall be used (see Chapter 3C).**

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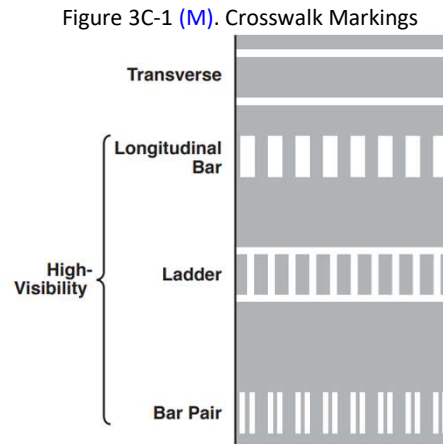
## Pavement Markings: Crosswalks Marking (Chapter 3C)

- Section 3C.06, Longitudinal Bar Crosswalks

Par. 2 (Standard):

**The width of an individual longitudinal bar shall not be less than 12 inches or greater than 24 inches.**

- Section 3C.08, Bar Pair Crosswalk-NEW



Please note: This is only part of Figure 3C-1.

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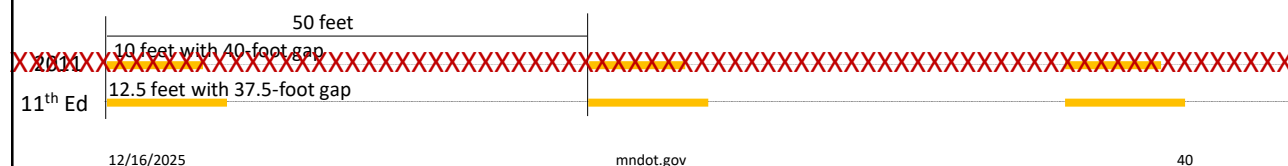
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## Pavement Markings: Long Lines

11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Section 3A.04, Functions, Widths, and Patterns of Longitudinal Pavement Markings

Par. 6 (Guidance)

*Broken lines should consist of 10-foot line segments and 30-foot gaps, or dimensions in a similar ratio of line segments to gaps as appropriate for traffic speeds and need for delineation. ~~One alternative is to use a broken line consisting of 10-foot line segments and 40-foot gaps.~~*



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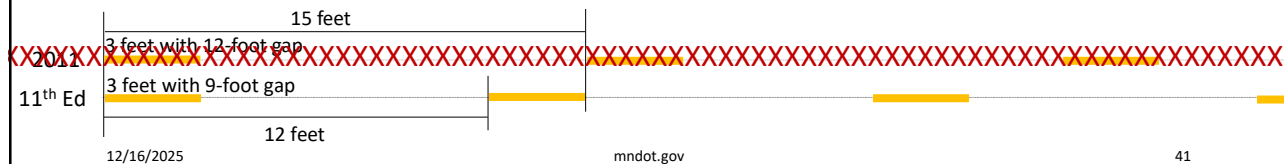
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## Pavement Markings: Long Lines

### 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Section 3A.04, Functions, Widths, and Patterns of Longitudinal Pavement Markings

#### Par. 7 (Guidance)

*A dotted line used as a lane line should consist of 3-foot line segments and 9-foot gaps... ~~One alternative is to use a dotted line consisting of 3 foot line segments and 12 foot gap.~~*



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## Temporary Traffic Control: Sign Heights

### MN MUTCD, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

#### Section 6F.02, Par. 11 and 11.1 (Guidance):

11 *Except as provided in Paragraph 12 of this Section, signs mounted on portable sign supports that do not meet the minimum mounting heights provided in Part 2 should not be used for a duration of more than 3 days.*

11.1 *Signs that will be in place for more than 30 days, and are located on an unpaved surface should not be mounted on portable supports.*

#### Par. 12 (Option):

12 The R9-8 through R9-11a series, R11 series, W1-6 through W1-8 series, M4-10, E5-1, or other similar type signs (see Figures 6G-1, 6H-1, and 6I-1) may be used on portable sign supports that do not meet the minimum mounting heights provided in Part 2 for longer than 3 days.

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## Additions

- Traffic Control Device Considerations for Automated Vehicles (Part 5)
- Interim Approval, (Not a complete List):
  - Green-Colored Pavement for Bike Lanes (Section 3H.06)
  - Red-Colored Pavement for Transit Lanes (Section 3H.07)
  - Bicycle Signal Faces (Chapter 4H)
  - Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) (Chapter 4L)
  - Bicycle Boxes (Section 9E.12)
  - Two-Stage Bicycle Turn Boxes (Section 9D.13)

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If you see something, say something!

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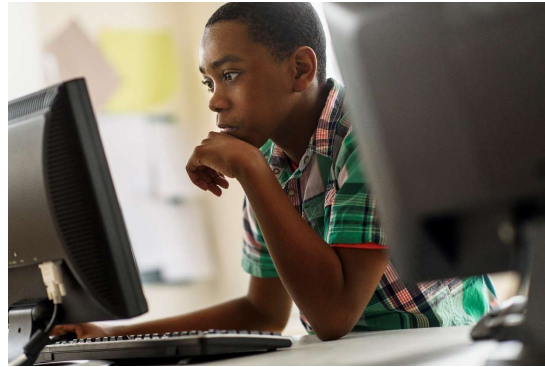
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# I want more!

FHWA, Webinar Recordings:  
[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno\\_11th\\_Edition.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno_11th_Edition.htm)

- Executive Summary and General Overview
- An Overview of the 11th Edition Changes Related to Vulnerable Road User



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**Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD)**

The Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD) establishes statewide standards for the design, placement, and use of traffic control devices—including signs, signals, and pavement markings. It applies to all public roads, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout Minnesota. It helps ensure a consistent and predictable experience for everyone using our roads and active transportation networks. The MN MUTCD is based on the national MUTCD but is tailored to fit Minnesota's needs when possible.

**Minnesota MUTCD, 11th Edition**

The FHWA Minnesota Division Office has approved the Minnesota MUTCD, 11th Edition with no changes. It goes into effect on Jan. 18, 2026. MnDOT will no longer offer printed copies.

• [Minnesota MUTCD, 11th Edition](#)

**Upcoming webinar**

Learn more about the MN MUTCD, 11th Edition.

• [Traffic Topics Webinar](#)  
2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025

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## Thank you!

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