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PREFACE

Detailed drawings of the Standard Highway Signs prescribed or provided for in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 2000 Millennium Edition, have been prepared by the Office of Transportation Operations, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, for use by all traffic authorities, agencies, jurisdictions and persons involved with the fabrication, installation and maintenance of traffic signs on streets and highways in the United States.

These drawings are presented in English measure design units and are provided to promote uniformity in design throughout the United States in accordance with Title 23, U.S. Code, Sections 109(b), 109(d) and 402(a) and Highway Safety Program Standard 13, "Traffic Engineering Services." As stated in the MUTCD, "Uniformity in design includes shape, color, dimensions, legends and reflectorization. This manual shows many typical signs approved for use on streets and highways. Detailed drawings of these and other approved signs are available to State and local highway and traffic authorities and similarly interested agencies. All symbols shall be unmistakably similar to those shown and where a word message is applicable, the wording shall be as herein provided unless alternative wording is optional. Most standard symbols are oriented facing left; however, this does not preclude the use of mirror images of these symbols where the reverse orientation might better convey to vehicle operators a direction of movement. Standardization of these designs does not preclude further improvement by minor changes in the proportion of the symbols, width of borders, or layout of word messages, but all shapes and colors shall be as indicated."

An attempt has been made to provide uniformity

of specific design details between two or more different types of signs having approximate sizes. Additionally, details for arrows and other items have been standardized as much as possible to facilitate fabrication of the signs and for national uniformity.

For word messages, only the overall length and placement of the characters are shown. Only the Series 2000 Standard Alphabet spacing charts may be used to determine overall length. The spacing between individual character combinations can be adjusted visually to attain the most satisfying balance. Where spacing between individual letters has been reduced or increased the dimension is noted by an asterisk on the plate dimension detail. Any such change represents a deviation from the full spacing as suggested in the spacing charts on the following pages.

For symbol messages, the overall height and width of the symbol and its placement on the sign is shown. The exact detail of the symbol is shown on a grid. All symbols and symbol drawings are contained in the Appendix in section 6. Any symbol may be enlarged to any size if done proportionally. The grid is provided as a reference to ensure the proportional relationship(s) remain correct.

The Standard Highway Signs book prescribes design details for up to five different sizes depending on the type of traffic facility including bikeways. Smaller sizes are designed to be used on bikeways and some other off-road applications. Larger sizes are designed for use on freeways expressways, and can also be used to enhance road user safety and convenience on other facilities, especially on multilane divided highways and on undivided highways having five or more lanes of traffic and/or high speeds.

The intermediate sizes are designed to be used on two-lane, three-lane and four-lane highways that have low speeds and volumes.

The sign sizes are found in the appropriate sections of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>). The decision to use the most appropriate sign sizes is the responsibility of the street or transportation agency or engineer having authority over the traffic facility. Studies have shown that as drivers age and as traffic volumes and speed increase, larger traffic signs are needed for safer roadway operations.

Except for the special seasonal situation described below, the 12" minimum size shall not be used on roadways, bicycle paths, or shared paths. The 12" size shall only be used as a minimum size for regulatory and warning signs on off-road snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails and on footpaths used exclusively by pedestrians. The 12" size may be used seasonally on unplowed roads that are designated specifically as seasonal snowmobile or ATV trails, but such 12" signs shall be removed and replaced with standard size signs for seasons in which such roads are used by regular (i.e., non-snowmobile, non-ATV) motor vehicles and/or bicycles.