

Schroepfer, Ken (DOT)

From: Schroepfer, Ken (DOT)
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 2:47 PM
To: Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Cc: Lott, Heather (DOT)
Subject: RE: R2-6b Revision Proposal

I can find no record of the END XX MILE SPEED sign (R2-6b) in the FHWA MUTCD or the FHWA Standard Highway Signs (SHS) Manual.

To the best of my knowledge, the END XX MILE SPEED sign (R2-6b) is based on the FHWA sign of the same name but numbered R2-6.
The R2-6 sign appears in the FHWA MUTCD (June 1961) and the Standard Highway Signs (SHS) Manual (1961).
According to the FHWA MUTCD, Section 1B-15

The END (35) MILE SPEED sign may be displayed at the end of an authorized speed zone to inform motorists that they are leaving a section where the statutory speed limits have been altered. **If used it shall be of the same size as the Speed Limit sign (sec. 1B-10) at the beginning of the zone, and shall be erected in the same manner (sec. 1B-13).** As an alternative, the legend END SPEED ZONE (R2-7) may be used.
Posting the speed limit for the following section of highway with a regular Speed Limit sign (sec. 1B-10) eliminates the need for either of the end-of-zone signs. At least one of these three signs should be used, however.

The sign was removed when the FHWA MUTCD (1971) and the SHS Manual (1972) were released.

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The R2-6 sign first appears in the MN MUTCD February 16, 1962 where it remained thru 2009. When the 2011 MN MUTCD was released, it was renumbered to R2-6b because the FHWA had released a new FINES HIGHER sign/plaque with the R2-6 number.
According to the MN MUTCD, Section 2B.16.1

There are many secondary roads (county, township and municipal) which have had speed zones established. These zones are in and on the fringes of urban districts (as defined in Minnesota Statute, section 169.011) where the rural speed limit remains at that provided in the statutes and continuous speed zoning has not been warranted. In many instances, the posting of the statutory speed limit in order to terminate the reduced speed zone would be inappropriate because the statutory speed limit would be misleading and encourage drivers to travel too fast for conditions. Sound engineering judgment would dictate that no numerical value should be posted and that the basic rule (Minnesota Statute, section 169.14, subd. 1) should apply.

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The Minnesota Highway Department added the R2-6 sign to the MN Standard Signs Manual in 1973 where it remained until MnDOT deleted it June 5, 2002. The assumption is that it was deleted because MnDOT was no longer using or no longer going to use this sign on MnDOT maintained roadways.

I have do not know if there exists any files regarding this sign in the Signing Section files.

Ken

From: Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 1:47 PM
To: Schroepfer, Ken (DOT)
Cc: Lott, Heather (DOT)
Subject: FW: R2-6b Revision Proposal

Maybe you can give us some background on this sign. I would argue that it should say END XX MPH ZONE. But I'm sure this was hotly debated at one time.

From: Thompson, Scott (DOT)
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 12:52 PM
To: Lott, Heather (DOT); Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Subject: R2-6b Revision Proposal

Heather & Janelle-

We had a public inquiry regarding the R2-6b (End Speed Zone sign) which reads END XX MILE SPEED. Ultimately, the citizen was wondering why the sign is so awkwardly worded (why not say END XX MPH SPEED?)

As part of my response to the citizen (attached) I indicated that I would forward a proposal to revise the sign to the MUTCD committee. As representatives of that group, would you please consider it for the next MUTCD update?

Thanks in advance-

SMT