

From: [Anderson, Janelle \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Colton, Diane \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: SF 1136
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:47:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

From: Lott, Heather (DOT)
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Subject: RE: SF 1136

Do you think this passed? Looks like it stalled in Finance.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF1136&y=2015&ssn=0&b=senate>

Regardless, in my commenting on the bill, I noticed our sign design is not compliant with the MUTCD. So I am thinking of bringing up the design of the signs to the Committee on Wednesday as a round robin if we have time.

From: Lott, Heather (DOT)
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Anderson, Janelle (DOT); Buchen, Peter (DOT); Nilan, Joani (DOT)
Cc: Groth, Susan (DOT); Williams, Robert H (DOT)
Subject: RE: SF 1136

So here is the language from the bill that refers to traffic signs. It requires a change in words (if used) but does not refer to us needing to change the symbol on the sign.

Sec. 2. ACCESSIBILITY PARKING SIGNS.

A sign that is posted to identify a parking space reserved for people who qualify for accessible parking must not display any form of the word "handicap" or "disability." A state or local unit of government, or a private entity that receives any monetary aid from the state shall, no later than January 15, 2016, modify or replace the sign so that it displays a form of the word "accessible" and does not display a form of the word "handicap" or "disability." The commissioner of transportation shall establish and administer a program to provide grants to sign owners who meet criteria identified by the commissioner to enable them to pay for the required sign changes. An entity that is subject to the requirements of this section but does not comply may not receive state aid during the period of noncompliance.

Neither the standard FHWA sign nor Minnesota version of the sign has either word handicap or disability. The plaque that is installed below the standard sign when a parking stall is van accessible says "VAN ACCESSIBLE." Therefore, the standard sign and plaque are compliant with the proposed bill. See photos below of MN standard signs:



R7-8m



R7-8bP

And here is the FHWA standard signs:



R7-8

R7-8P

So my conclusion is that this bill will not impact our current Minnesota standard sign. MN has had this same design as seen above in the photo of R7-8m, since October of 1990. Prior to 1990, the sign design was similar to that of R7-8m, but the word “handicapped” was shown below the wheelchair symbol.

From what I can tell in SignTrack, our impact may be minimal in having any of these old designs still installed on MnDOT roads.

-One sign that may still have the old design (Joani it’s R7-8MA) however I’m not confident that it is installed on MnDOT roads. The one installation of this sign says it was replaced in 2008. Which I’m nearly sure would be the new design. I think it’s an error. There are 106 others in SignTrack coded as R7-8m signs. 2 installations are 25 years and older and may potentially have the old design. 65 in Metro that do not have a date of installation and are unknown.

-Joani and I estimate that MnDOT’s impact is minimal. Under \$1,000 is my guess without knowing the ages of all the signs in Metro.

Not all the Rest Areas signs are in SignTrack. I cc’d Rob Williams to let him know of this proposed bill

just in case the Rest Areas have old signs that he's aware of. Rob may be more interested in reading about the new symbol for the women's restroom. Rob, see the remainder of the bill, link is in the prior emails below.

MnDOT is not the primary user of this sign and so there is no way for Joani or I to calculate how much it would cost to change signs state wide in all private and public parking lots that may by chance have the old design from prior to 1990.

From my perspective, I would not oppose this bill. I would provide the following comments:

1. The bill should reference MS 169.349 for design of the accessible parking stall sign or say to use the sign adopted by the Commissioner of Transportation or as shown in the MN MUTCD, etc. This will also help us in the future for reasons in the last part of this email title "future sign design changes."
2. We have signs for Disabled American Veterans Highway which is covered under a memorial law (161.14). We have this sign shown in electronic version of the Standard Signs Summary (considered digital media correct?) and signs installed on the roadways.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=161.14>

Subd. 26. **Disabled American Veterans Highway and Rest Area.**

That portion of Constitutional Route No. 3, known as Trunk Highway 61, from the easterly limits of the city of St. Paul to the boundary line between the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin is designated the "Disabled American Veterans Highway." The roadside rest area on Trunk Highway 61 at Lake City is designated the Disabled American Veterans rest area. The commissioner of transportation shall adopt a suitable marking design to mark this highway and rest area and shall erect the appropriate signs.

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The following are some to do items for IF the bill is passed:

Manual updates:

In addition to Janelle's comments below regarding updates required in the TEM and MN MUTCD, we will also need to update the titles of the signs in the Standard Signs Manual (W11-9 and R7-8m). FHWA also refers to these symbols and signs as "disabled."

SignTrack Updates:

All sign description names in SignTrack need to be updated for both the R7-8's and W11-9's. Various names are used such as "handicap", "handicapped" (and also sometimes referred to as "handicaped", yes misspelled), "disable", "disabled" and "wheelchair"
Remove the R7-8MA sign from SignTrack Library.

FYI for a future sign design change to the R7-8m and R7-8bP:

The MN MUTCD is missing the reference it has had in previous version to MS 169.346 but instead refers a person to Minnesota Rules 1341.502.... which leads a person to MS 169.346 and Sub 2 states:

Subd. 2. **Disability parking space signs.**

(a) Parking spaces reserved for physically disabled persons must be designated and identified by the posting of signs incorporating the international symbol of access in white on blue and indicating that violators are subject to a fine of up to \$200. These parking spaces are reserved for disabled persons with motor vehicles displaying the required certificate, plates, permit valid for 30 days, or insignia.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, a parking space that is clearly identified as reserved for physically disabled persons by a permanently posted sign that does not meet all design standards, is considered designated and reserved for physically disabled persons. A sign posted for the purpose of this section must be visible from inside a motor vehicle parked in the space, be kept clear of snow or other obstructions which block its visibility, and be nonmovable.

FHWA MUTCD new language in 2009 thus making Minnesota Standard Sign design for R7-8 noncompliant:

Standard:

08 Where parking spaces that are reserved for persons with disabilities are designated to accommodate wheelchair vans, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (R7-8P) plaque shall be mounted below the R7-8 sign. The R7-8 sign (see Figure 2B-24) shall have a green legend and border and a white wheelchair symbol on a blue square, all on a white background. The R7-8P plaque (see Figure 2B-24) shall have a green legend and border on a white background.

(This language is carried over into the 2011 MN MUTCD thus conflicting with MN MUTCD 2B.48.1)

After reading through that law and the language in the MUTCD it would seem that Minnesota's sign design will need to be modified in color in order to remain compliant as the law does not specify a blue background sign. MnDOT isn't the primary user of this sign. Getting the word out on this change would be quite the challenge. If this proposed law could say to reference the MN MUTCD for the sign design of accessible parking spots that would help.

Sorry, so much info in one email. But this saves me later from having to relook up all this info.

-Heather

From: Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:45 PM
To: Buchen, Peter (DOT); Nilan, Joani (DOT)

Cc: Groth, Susan (DOT); Lott, Heather (DOT)
Subject: RE: SF 1136

We have many references to “disabled, disability” in the MN MUTCD and our TEM (in references to signs). Years ago they changed the statute to replace all references from “handicapped” to “disabled”.

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DIGITAL MEDIA.

The chief information officer shall require state agencies and private entities that receive any monetary aid from the state, no later than September 30, 2015, to remove any form of the word "handicap" or "disability" from digital media created or maintained by state agencies or private entities and substitute a form of the word "accessibility." An entity that is subject to the requirements of this section but does not comply may not receive state aid during the period of noncompliance.

We also refer to disabled vehicles and disabling signs (CMS) in the MN MUTCD. What are we supposed to change that to? Janelle

From: Buchen, Peter (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Nilan, Joani (DOT)
Cc: Groth, Susan (DOT); Lott, Heather (DOT); Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Subject: FW: SF 1136

Hi Joani.

Please run a SignTrack report to identify, how many, if any signs we have that include the words Handicapped or Disabled or Disability. The bill found through the link below will explain.

Thanks,
Peter

From: Bennett, Nancy (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Groth, Susan (DOT); Buchen, Peter (DOT); Anderson, Janelle (DOT)
Subject: SF 1136

Attached is the bill review form and the link to SF 1136. We are looking for a three day turn-around on all bill reviews.

Please send it to me when you finished your comments. The **subject on the email should denote the bill number(s)**, as should the **Bill Review Form**. Thanks –Nancy

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1136&version=0&session=ls89&session_year=2015&session_number=0

Nancy Bennett
Executive Assistant
MnDOT Government Affairs
651-366-4819
Nancy.Bennett@state.mn.us

