



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

17200 West Bell Road No.1135 * Surprise, Ariz. 85374
Telephone (623) 214-2403 * e-mail: ncutcd@aol.com

Item No.: 15B-RR-01

NCUTCD Proposal for Changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Railroad & Light Rail Transit Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 15B-RR-01
TOPIC: Edge Line Markings at Highway-Rail and Light Rail Transit Grade Crossings
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: RR/LRT TC
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: 8B.31 Proposed change

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

- Approved by Technical Committee: 05/04/2015
- Approved by NCUTCD Council: Not yet approved

This is a proposal for recommended changes to the MUTCD that has been developed by a technical committee of the NCUTCD. The NCUTCD is distributing it to its sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Sponsor comments will be considered in revising the proposal prior to NCUTCD Council consideration. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. If approved by the NCUTCD Council, the recommended changes 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 purpose of this change is to address several train-auto crashes which have occurred within the last few years. In these incidents, a roadway user made an improper turn and turned onto the railroad rather than at an adjacent intersection immediately beyond the grade crossing. In June of 2011, the RRLRT TC recommended the addition of new Section 8B.31 to address the optional inclusion of edge line markings across a grade crossing. In light of a continuing number of crashes due to motorists turning onto tracks at a grade crossing, NTSB has made a preliminary safety recommendation to allow the use of tubular delineators to further supplement the edge line markings. The RRLRT TC, FHWA and the Association of American Railroads support this recommendation and have proposed the following changes to Section 8B.31.

DISCUSSION

None

35 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES**

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

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45 **PART 8. TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR RAILROAD AND**
46 **LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT GRADE CROSSINGS**

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48 **CHAPTER 8B. SIGNS AND MARKINGS**

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50 **Note: green double underlined text was approved by Council in June 2011.**

51 **Section 8B.31 Edge Lines and Lane Lines at Grade Crossings**

52 Guidance:

53 01 When used, edge lines (see Section 3B.06) and lane lines (see Section 3B.04) should extend
54 to and across the track(s) at a grade crossing to delineate the edge of the traveled way and the
55 separation of traffic lanes across the track(s).

56 Option:

57 02 The edge lines and lane lines may be omitted from the crossing surface if the surface cannot
58 retain the application of the marking.

59 03 Raised pavement markers or tubular delineators may be used to supplement the edge line
60 markings to delineate the edge of the traveled way across the track(s).

61 Support:

62 04 This delineation is desirable where the crossing is in close proximity to a highway
63 intersection.

64 **Standard:**

65 **05 Where used, raised pavement markers or tubular delineators placed along the edge**
66 **line of the traveled way shall be white or yellow in color to match the color of edge lines**
67 **stipulated in Section 3B.06.**

68 Guidance:

69 06 When used, tubular delineators should not be installed within 6 feet of any rail.

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