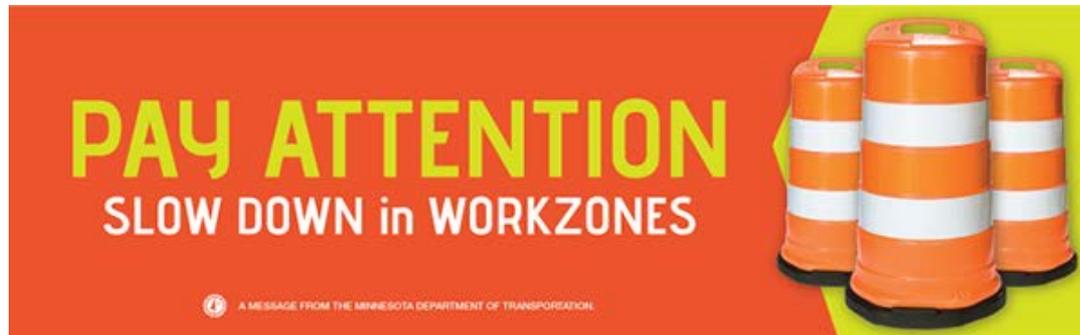




Speed Limits in Work Zones 2014



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We all have a stake in **A**  **B**



Work Zone Legislation

MN Session Law 2014 Chapter 312



- ▶ Defined Work Zone
- ▶ Modified fine for violating a flagger direction
- ▶ Modified speed limits in work zones
 - Required reduction under certain conditions
 - Allowed road agency to set without an engineering study
 - Modified fine

Effective August 1, 2014



Definition of a Work Zone

MN Statutes 169.011, Subd. 95 – slightly paraphrased

- ▶ A work zone means a segment of street or highway which...
 - A road authority or its agent is constructing, reconstructing, or maintaining the physical structure of the roadway, which may include, but is not limited to, shoulders, features adjacent to the roadway, and utilities and highway appurtenances, whether underground or overhead, AND any of the following items applies...



Definition of a Work Zone

MN Statutes 169.011, Subd. 95 – slightly paraphrased

- ▶ Official traffic control devices that indicate the segment of a street or highway under construction, reconstruction, or maintenance, are erected
- ▶ One or more lanes of traffic are closed
- ▶ A flagger is present
- ▶ A 24/7 construction speed limit is established
- ▶ A workers present speed limit is in effect



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

- ▶ The speed limit on a road having an established speed limit of 50 mph or greater is adjusted to 45 mph in a work zone (remember definition) when...
 - At least one lane or portion of a lane of traffic is closed in either direction
 - Workers are present



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

- ▶ The required work zone speed limit of 45 mph does not apply when...
 - Positive barriers are placed between workers and the traveled portion of the highway



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

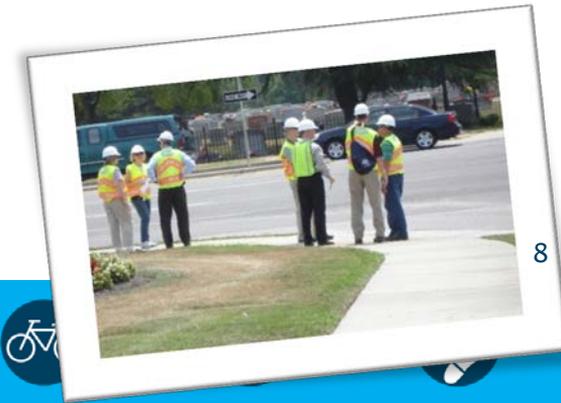
- ▶ The required work zone speed limit of 45 mph does not apply when...
 - The work zone is in place for less than 24 hours



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

- ▶ The required work zone speed limit of 45 mph does not apply when...
 - A different speed limit for the work zone is determined by the road authority following an engineering and traffic investigation, and based on accepted engineering practice
 - This would be a 24/7 construction speed limit that would be established by through a Commissioners Order for the work zone due to substandard roadway elements.
 - The local road agency would request through MnDOT



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

- ▶ The required work zone speed limit of 45 mph does not apply when...
 - A reduced speed limit for the work zone is established by the road authority for a road under their jurisdiction when workers are present (an engineering and traffic investigation is not required)
 - No more than 20 mph on a street or highway with an established speed limit of 55 mph or greater
 - No more than 15 mph on a street or highway with an established speed limit of 50 mph or less

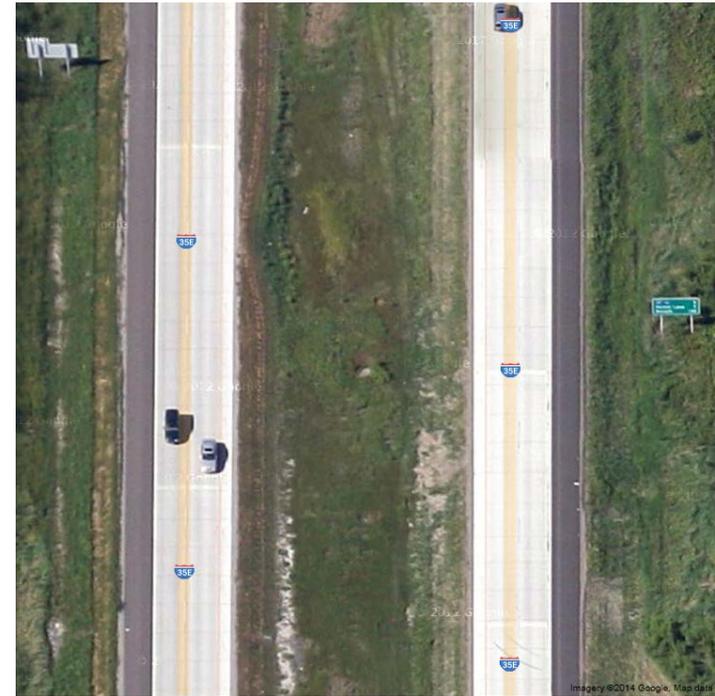
Workers Present Speed Limit – determined by agency



Speed Limits in Work Zones

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5d

- ▶ The required work zone speed limit of 45 mph does not apply when...
 - Added in the proposed revision to the MN MUTCD
 - On the roadway of a divided highway with a median that does not include a TTC zone



Work Zone Speed Limit Violations

MN Statutes 169.14, Subd. 6a

- ▶ A person convicted of operating a motor vehicle in violation of a speed limit in a work zone, or any other provision of this section while in a work zone, shall be required to pay a fine of \$300.
 - The provision of “fines double” no longer applies to violations within work zones
- ▶ All work zones that meet statutory definition
 - Even those without posted speed limits
- ▶ MN MUTCD will allow turning existing posted speed limits into work zone speed limit assembly



What Projects May be Affected?

- ▶ Types of projects that may be affected by this new law – required reduction
 - Pavement rehabilitation (reclaim and overlay, mill and overlay, overlay, chip seals, micro surfaces)
 - Pavement patching and crack sealing
 - Reconstruction projects
 - Multi-day culvert replacement (at one location)
 - Bridge construction/repair
 - Installation of an intersection traffic control device (e.g. traffic signal or roundabout)



Let's Review...

- ▶ Remember this simple rule...
 - If your project is on a road with a posted speed limit of 50 mph or greater, ask these following questions:
 - ✓ Will the project restrict any traveled lane or part of a traveled lane?
 - ✓ Will the work zone be in place for at least 24 hours?
 - ✓ Will positive barriers be absent between the traffic and workers?
 - If you answered yes to all three questions, it is required by law to implement a workers present speed limit of 45 mph



In addition...

- ▶ The road authority has the ability to set a workers present speed limit even if the criteria are not met.
 - For example, you may want to set a workers present speed limit on a road where maintenance workers are there for only a few hours.
- ▶ But workers have to be present.
- ▶ Signs must be taken down when workers leave.



Contractor responsibility

- ▶ Reduced speed only when workers present in adjacent lane within 1 mile of the reduced speed limit sign.
- ▶ Signs must be taken down when workers leave.
- ▶ Document – (savvy lawyer)
 - if crash with reduced speed and no workers documented – then contractor can be sued.

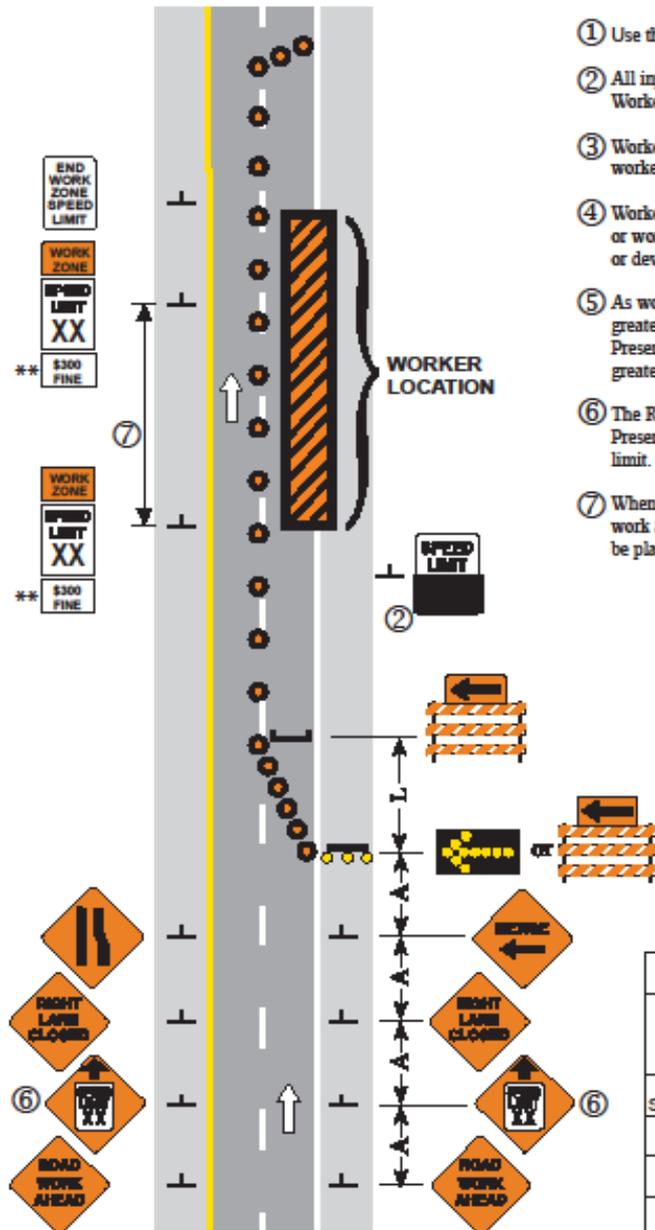


MN MUTCD Revision

- ▶ MnDOT has drafted language and layouts for the MN MUTCD
 - Other elements of law
 - MN MUTCD Committee decisions
- ▶ Part 6H is being fully rewritten as a new revision, changes to:
 - 24/7 Construction Speed Limit
 - Workers Present Speed Limit
 - Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit



Workers Present Speed Limit – Multilane



NOTES:

- ① Use the appropriate layout for temporary traffic control.
- ② All in-place Speed Limit signs shall be removed or covered when the Workers Present Speed Limit is implemented.
- ③ Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies shall be removed when workers are not present directly adjacent to traveled lanes.
- ④ Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies may be placed in the buffer or work space as long as the assemblies are not blocked by vehicles or devices.
- ⑤ As workers proceed through the work area, the assembly shall be no greater than 1 mile in advance of the work crew. For Workers Present Speed Limits of less than 40 mph, the assembly should be no greater than 1/2 mile in advance of the work crew.
- ⑥ The Reduced Speed Ahead sign should be used when the Workers Present Speed Limit is more than 10 mph below the in-place speed limit.
- ⑦ When workers are present adjacent to traveled lanes throughout the work area, confirming Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies may be placed according to the Spacing Table below:

Typical Spacing for Workers Present Speed Limits	
Workers Present Speed Limit (mph)	Assembly Spacing (mile)
< 40	1/2
≥ 40	1

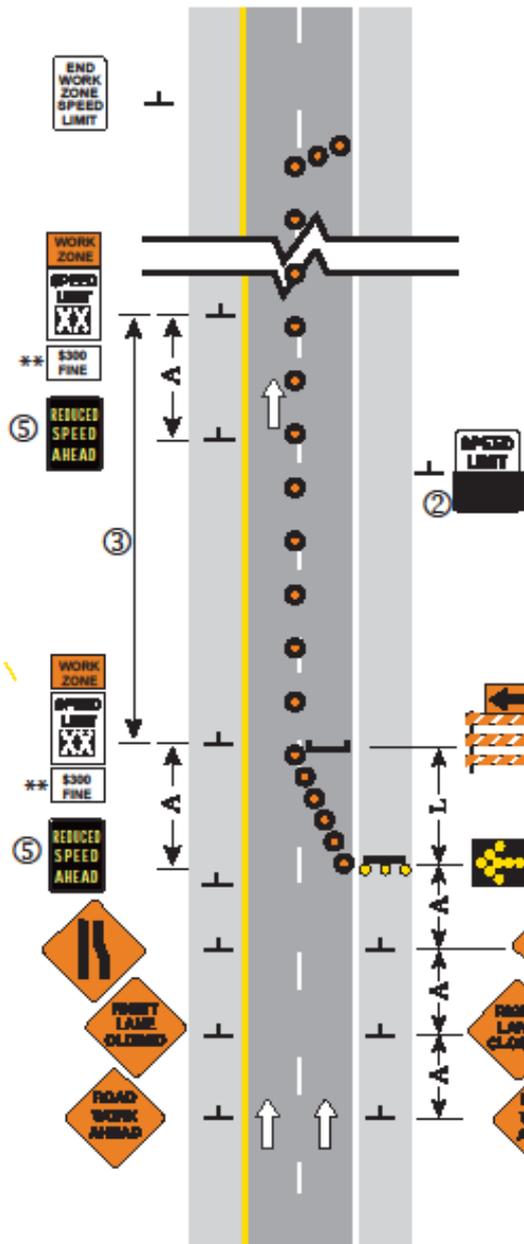
Sign	Minimum Sign Sizes	
	Posted Speed Limit Prior to Work Starting	
	≤ 40 mph	> 40 mph
END WORK ZONE SPEED LIMIT (R2-12)	24" X 36"	36" X 54"
WORK ZONE (G20-5aP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
SPEED LIMIT (R2-1)	24" X 30"	36" X 48"
\$300 FINE (R2-6bP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
REDUCED SPEED AHEAD (W3-5)	36" X 36"	48" X 48"

** - Optional

☛ Retrospective channelizing devices



Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit – Multilane



NOTES:

- ① Use the appropriate layout for temporary traffic control.
- ② All in-place Speed Limit signs shall be removed or covered.
- ③ Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies shall be placed through the length of the activity area no greater than 1 mile apart. In locations with a Workers Present Speed Limit of less than 40 mph, the Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies should be no greater than 1/2 mile apart.
- ④ Each Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit assembly shall display the Workers Present Speed Limit when workers are present directly adjacent to traveled lanes in the segment beyond the assembly. When workers are not present, the in-place Speed Limit shall be displayed.
- ⑤ An Electronic Reduced Speed Ahead sign (may be electronic display or flip board) should be used when the Workers Present Speed Limit is more than 10 mph below the in-place speed limit.
- ⑥ Electronic Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies may be placed in the buffer or work space as long as the assemblies are not blocked by vehicles or devices.

Minimum Sign Sizes		
Sign	Posted Speed Limit Prior to Work Starting	
	≤40 mph	>40 mph
END WORK ZONE SPEED LIMIT (R2-12)	24" X 36"	36" X 54"
WORK ZONE (G20-5aP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
SPEED LIMIT (R2-1)	24" X 30"	36" X 48"
\$300 FINE (R2-6bP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
REDUCED SPEED AHEAD (Electronic Display or Flip Board)	24" X 30"	36" X 48"

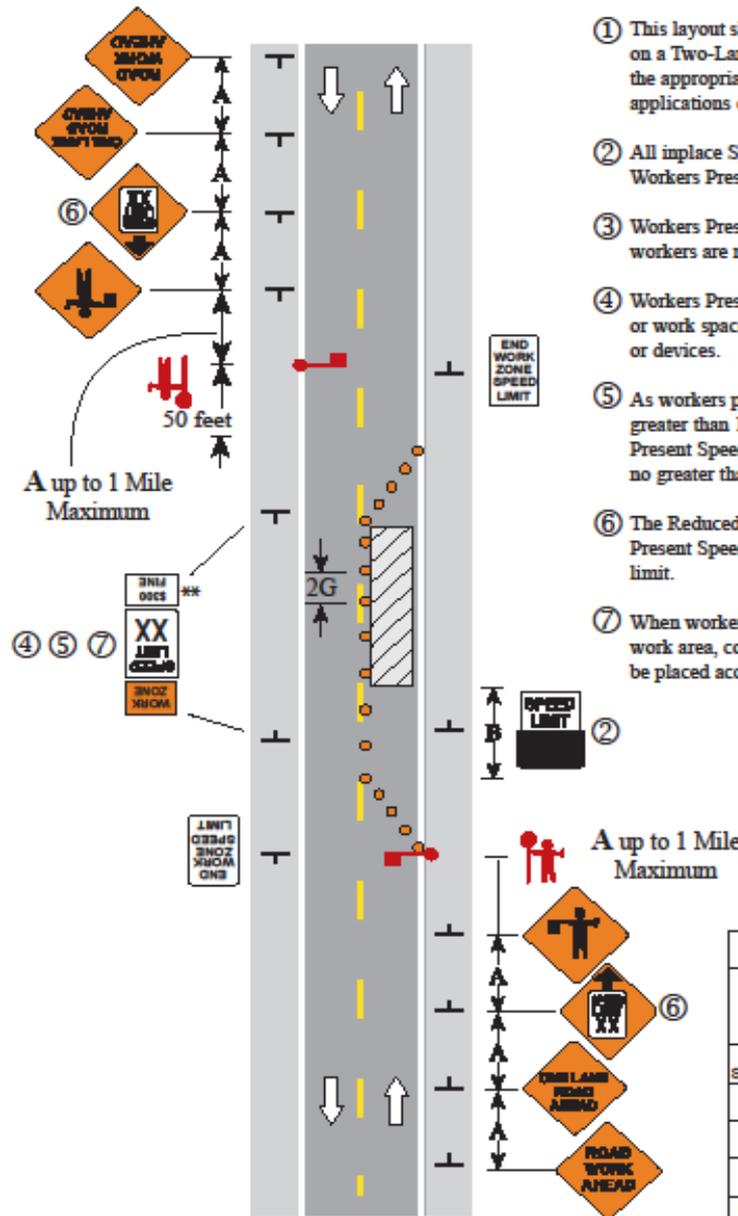
** - Optional

● - Retroreflective channelizing device.



Workers Present Speed Limit

2-lane, 2-way



NOTES:

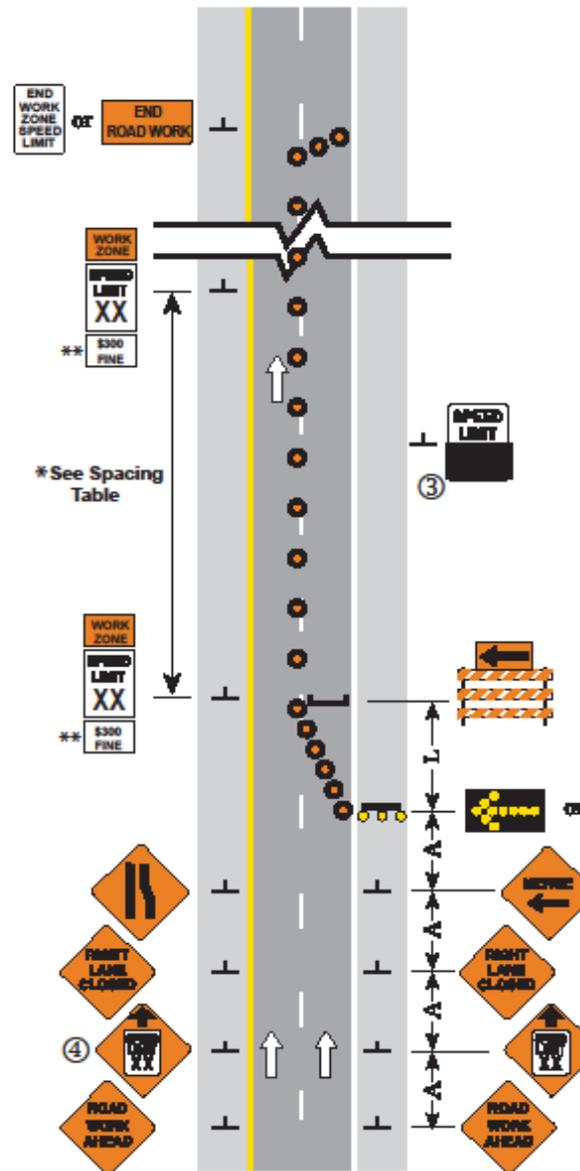
- ① This layout shows an application of Workers Present Speed Limits on a Two-Lane Two-Way Road with Flaggers as an example. Use the appropriate layout for temporary traffic control for other applications on Two-Lane Two-Way Roads.
- ② All Inplace Speed Limit signs shall be removed or covered when the Workers Present Speed Limit is implemented.
- ③ Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies shall be removed when workers are not present directly adjacent to traveled lanes.
- ④ Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies may be placed in the buffer or work space as long as the assemblies are not blocked by vehicles or devices.
- ⑤ As workers proceed through the work area, the assembly shall be no greater than 1 mile in advance of the work crew. For Workers Present Speed Limits of less than 40 mph, the assembly should be no greater than 1/2 mile in advance of the work crew.
- ⑥ The Reduced Speed Ahead sign should be used when the Workers Present Speed Limit is more than 10 mph below the in-place speed limit.
- ⑦ When workers are present adjacent to traveled lanes throughout the work area, confirming Workers Present Speed Limit assemblies may be placed according to the Spacing Table below:

Workers Present Speed Limit (mph)	Assembly Spacing (mile)
< 40	1/2
≥ 40	1

Sign	Posted Speed Limit Prior to Work Starting	
	≤ 40 mph	> 40 mph
END WORK ZONE SPEED LIMIT (R2-12)	24" X 36"	36" X 54"
WORK ZONE (G20-5aP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
SPEED LIMIT (R2-1)	24" X 30"	36" X 48"
\$300 FINE (R2-6bP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
REDUCED SPEED AHEAD (W3-5)	36" X 36"	48" X 48"



24/7 Construction Speed Limit – Multilane



NOTES:

- ① A Commissioners Authorization is required.
- ② Use the appropriate layout for temporary traffic control.
- ③ All in-place Speed Limit signs shall be removed or covered.
- ④ The Reduced Speed Ahead sign should be used when the 24/7 Construction Speed Limit is more than 10 mph below the in-place speed limit.

Sign	Minimum Sign Sizes	
	Posted Speed Limit Prior to Work Starting	
	≤40 mph	>40 mph
END WORK ZONE SPEED LIMIT (R2-12)	24" X 36"	36" X 54"
WORK ZONE (G20-5aP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
SPEED LIMIT (R2-1)	24" X 30"	36" X 48"
\$300 FINE (R2-6bP)	24" X 18"	36" X 24"
REDUCED SPEED AHEAD (W3-5)	36" X 36"	48" X 48"

* Typical Spacing For 24/7 Construction Speed Limit Signs

24/7 Construction Speed Limit mph	Sign Spacing mile
≤ 25	1/4
30 - 35	1/2
40 - 45	3/4
≥ 50	1

** - Optional

● - Retroreflective channelizing device.



Questions?

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