



ROADWAY SIGNAGE

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

Federal Regulations Title 23: Highways, Part 655.603, states that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), "...is the national standard for all traffic control devices installed on any street, highway, or bicycle trail open to public travel...". In compliance with this regulation, which may be viewed at mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov, only signage which is compliant with this document shall be installed within the public right-of-way. Specific examples, and their associated policies are as follows.

- **Speed Limit Signage:**

Section 2B.13, paragraphs 03 and 04 of the MUTCD state that "Speed Limit (R2-1) signs, indicating speed limits for which posting is required by law, shall be located at the points of change from one speed limit to another. At the downstream end of the section to which a speed limit applies, a Speed Limit sign showing the next speed limit shall be installed. Additional Speed Limit signs shall be installed beyond major intersections and at other locations where it is necessary to remind road users of the speed limit that is applicable." In compliance with this requirement, speed limit signs in compliance with Ordinance [O-17-33](#) should be placed in the following locations:

- At every entrance to a neighborhood that intersects a street with a higher speed limit;
- Beyond signalized intersections and roundabouts;
- At points of change from one speed limit to another.

- **“Children at Play” Signage:**

There are several reasons why signs such as these should not be used within the public right-of-way:

- These signs are not listed in the MUTCD and are, therefore, non-compliant with Federal Regulations.
- The Traffic Control Devices Handbook from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) states, “Caution-Children at Play or Slow Children signs should not be used since they may encourage children to play in the street and may encourage parents to be less vigilant.”
- Motorists should expect children to be at play in all residential areas and the lack of signing on some streets may indicate otherwise.
- Studies have shown that these signs do not reduce traffic speeds or make drivers more observant. As a result, these signs give pedestrians a false sense of security.

As an alternative, a playground sign may be appropriately placed alongside parks or playgrounds.

Non-compliant signage may be placed outside the right-of-way on private property by the property owner or their designated representative. In general, placing a sign 15 feet from the curb assures that it is on private property and, therefore, does not violate this policy.

The City of Conway reserves the right to remove any non-compliant signage without notification in the interest of public safety or to allow existing signage to remain until resources become available.