

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION*

MEMORANDUM

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT:</b> Traffic Signs		<b>NUMBER:</b> TE-340
<b>SPECIFIC SUBJECT:</b> Speed Limit and Fine Signs in Work Zones		<b>DATE:</b> January 12, 2006
		<b>SUPERSEDES:</b> MM-317
<b>DIRECTED TO:</b> District Administrators	<b>SIGNATURE:</b> <i>Raymond J. Khoury</i>	

Section §46.2-878.1 of the Code of Virginia, enacted into law on July 1, 2003, establishes a fine for speeding in a work zone at not more than \$500 when workers are present and the work zone is indicated by appropriately placed signs.

Selection of work zones for this initiative is at the District Traffic Engineer's discretion. In order for this measure to have an optimum impact on safety and be enforceable, it should be coordinated with the local law enforcement community and/or State Police.

Recommended guidelines for selecting work zones for increased fines are as follows:

- Projects on limited access highways with a work duration of 60 days or more
- Projects on non-limited access highways with a posted or statutory (if not posted) speed limit of 35 mph or greater that will have a work duration of 120 days or more
- Projects (both limited and non-limited access highways) where safety will be increased based on the engineering judgment of the District Traffic Engineer

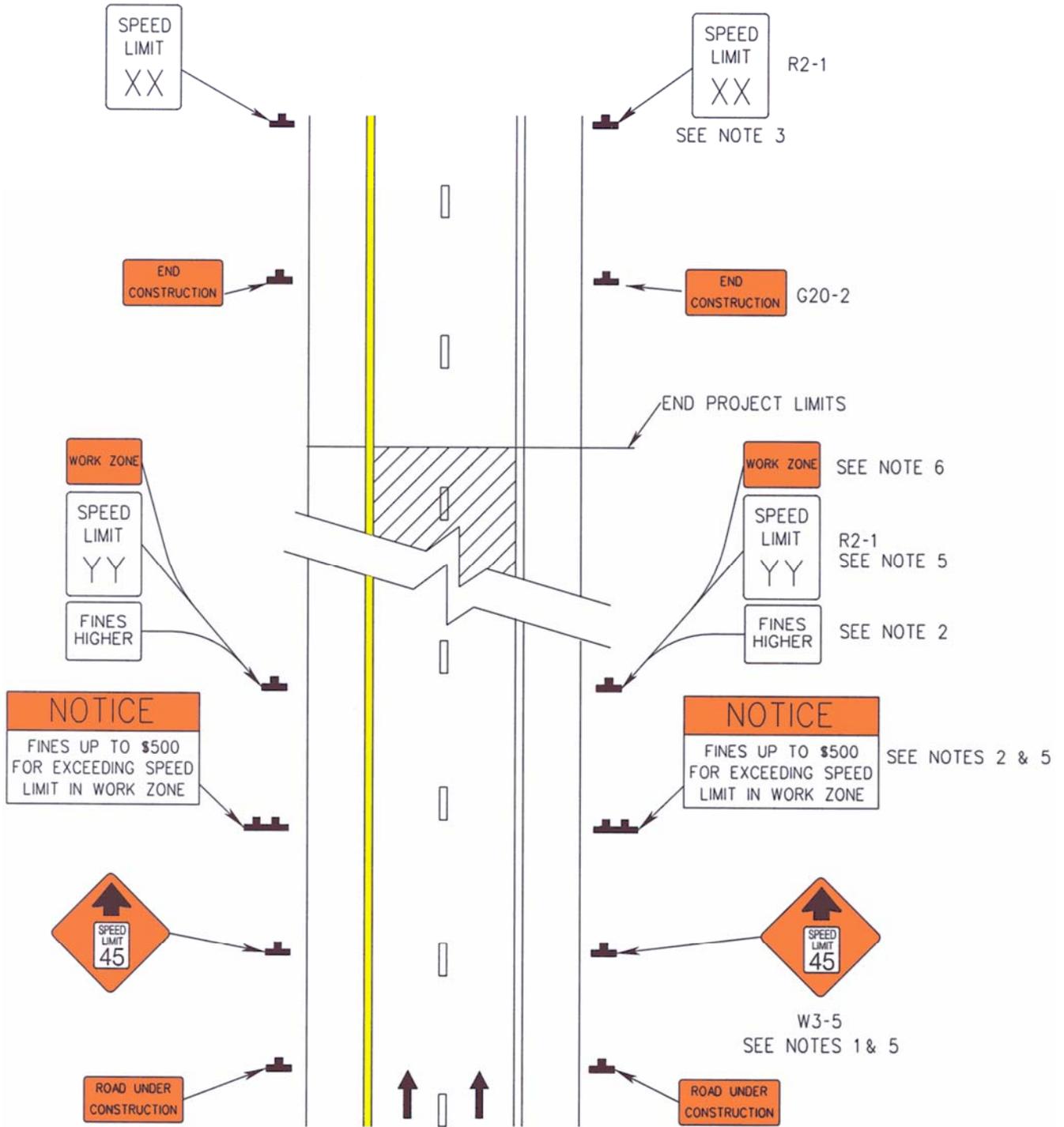
Signing for this initiative shall conform to the attached drawings. In addition, a WORK ZONE sign is required to be installed above the speed limit signs in work zones where either increased fines apply or where speed limits are being reduced.

This memorandum is effective immediately for work zones being established. Existing work zones, where the construction signing is already in place, do not need to be modified to conform to this memorandum.

cc:

Division Administrators  
District Traffic Engineers  
Regional Operation Directors  
Resident Administrators  
Ms. Constance. S. Sorrell

Mr. Greg Whirley  
Dr. Gary R. Allen  
Malcolm. T. Kerley, P.E.  
Ms. Barbara W. Reese  
Mr. Roberto Fonseca



SPEED LIMIT AND FINE SIGNS IN WORK ZONES

## **NOTES**

### **(Speed Limit and Fine Signs in Work Zones)**

1. W3-5 signs only required if speed limit is being reduced in the work zone. An existing REDUCED SPEED AHEAD sign (R2-5a) may be used in lieu of this sign in order to utilize the existing stock but not beyond December 31, 2008. Mixing of the signs shall not occur on an approach.
2. NOTICE - FINES UP TO \$500 FOR EXCEEDING SPEED LIMIT IN WORK ZONE and FINES HIGHER signs are only required when the work zone has been selected for increased fines. An existing NOTICE – \$500 MAXIMUM FINE FOR EXCEEDING SPEED LIMIT IN WORK ZONE sign may be used in order to utilize the existing stock; however, mixing of the signs shall not occur on an approach.
3. If the entire project is signed for a reduced speed and an original speed limit sign is not within 1000 linear feet of the END CONSTRUCTION sign, signs depicting the original speed limit shall be erected 500 feet (plus or minus) past the END CONSTRUCTION sign. On secondary route highways with unposted speed limits, an END XX SPEED LIMIT (VR-5) sign shall be used in place of erecting an R2-1 sign. If only part of the project is signed for a reduced speed, then the original speed limit shall be posted 500 feet (plus or minus) past the end point of the reduced speed.
4. Sign spacing shall be in accordance with the established distances as prescribed in the *Virginia Work Area Protection Manual* based on the type of facility and speed limit. In addition, on divided facilities, the signs should be double indicated.
5. Experience has shown that compliance to work zone speed limits is greater if the Reduced Speed Limit (W3-5) (if used), NOTICE – FINES UP TO \$500 FOR EXCEEDING SPEED LIMIT IN WORK ZONE and the Speed Limit (R2-1) signs are placed as close to the work as possible, as opposed to placement prior to the advance warning signs (ROAD WORK AHEAD, etc.).
6. The use of the WORK ZONE sign with the Speed Limit (R2-1) sign installed on portable sign stands is not required. This is due to the increased potential for the sign stand to tip over and/or skate along the roadway.



This sign is intended to be used in work zones where the \$500 maximum fine regulation is in effect. Sign A shall be used on Secondary and Minor Primary road systems and Sign B on Major Primary and Interstate road systems.

<b>SHAPE</b>	Horizontal Rectangle			
<b>COLOR</b>	Line 1	Message and Border:	Black (Non-Reflectorized)	
		Field:	Fluorescent Orange (Reflectorized)	
	Lines 2 through 4	Message and Border:	Black (Non-Reflectorized)	
		Field:	White (Reflectorized)	
<b>SIZE</b>	Horizontal:	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	
		66"	108"	
	Vertical:	42"	54"	
<b>MESSAGE</b>	Line 1	Capitals:	<b>A</b> 6" E	<b>B</b> 6" E
		Solid Bar:	1"	1"
	Line 2	Capitals:	4" C	6" D
	Line 3	Capitals:	4" C	6" D
	Line 4	Capitals:	4" C	6" D
<b>MARGIN WIDTH</b>		<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	
		½"	½"	
<b>BORDER WIDTH</b>		1"	1"	
<b>CORNER RADIUS</b>		3"	4"	

**NOTES:** Vertical spacing between Line 1 and the top border/solid bar is 2¼" for Sign A and Sign B. Vertical spacing between Line 2 and the solid bar is 4¼" for Sign A and 5¾" for Sign B. Vertical spacing between Lines 2, 3, and 4 is 3½" for Sign A and 5" for Sign B. Vertical spacing between Line 4 and the bottom border is 4¼" for Sign A and 5¾" for Sign B.



This sign is intended to be installed above all speed limit signs used in work zones. Sign A shall be used with 24" width speed limit signs, Sign B with 36" width speed limit signs and Sign C with 48" width speed limit signs.

<b>SHAPE</b>	Horizontal Rectangle			
<b>COLOR</b>	Message and Border:	Black (Non-Reflectorized)		
	Field:	Fluorescent Orange (Reflectorized)		
<b>SIZE</b>		<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
	Horizontal:	24"	36"	48"
	Vertical:	9"	12"	12"
<b>MESSAGE</b>	Line 1	Capitals:	3" C	5" C
			6" C	
<b>MARGIN WIDTH</b>			$\frac{3}{8}$ "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
			$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
<b>BORDER WIDTH</b>			$\frac{3}{8}$ "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
			$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
<b>CORNER RADIUS</b>			1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
			1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**NOTE:** Spacing of the message for Sign B shall be 70% of the normal spacing.



### **R2-6**

The standard R2-6 sign is intended to be used below the speed limit signs in work zones where the \$500 maximum fine regulation is in effect. These signs shall not be used unless a separate sign is in place in the work zone indicating the \$500 maximum fine is in effect. The 2004 Standard Highway Sign book provides dimensions for 24", 36" and 48" signs to be used with the same standard width speed limit signs.

### ***CODE OF VIRGINIA***

§ 46.2-878.1. Maximum speed limits in highway work zones; penalty.

Operation of any motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit established specifically for a highway work zone, when workers are present and when such highway work zone is indicated by appropriately placed signs displaying the maximum speed limit and the penalty for violations, shall be unlawful and constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.

For the purposes of this section, "highway work zone" means a construction or maintenance area that is located on or beside a highway and marked by appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices indicating that work is in progress.

Nothing in this section shall preclude the prosecution or conviction for reckless driving of any motor vehicle operator whose operation of any motor vehicle in a highway work zone, apart from speed, demonstrates a reckless disregard for life, limb, or property.

(1992, c. 462; 1995, c. 54; 2003, c. 839.)