

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE BULLETIN #11/2009

Active School Bus Stop Ahead Sign

Summary

This Bulletin is issued to inform maintenance contractors and department staff of the change in policy regarding the use of Active School Bus Stop Ahead signs. These devices typically feature a School Bus Stop Ahead (WC-9) sign equipped with manually activated and self-cancelling flashing amber lights. The department's new policy is these devices should no longer be installed and all existing devices should be phased out when the opportunity arises, for example, when the school bus stop is no longer in operation.

The TAC Guidelines for the Application and Implementation of Active Warning Devices in Advance of School Bus Stops Technical Memorandum #1: Research indicated that there are several concerns with the use of these active warning devices:

- The devices may not be activated as intended or in a consistent manner by school bus operators which could lead to driver confusion.
- The devices may create a perception of a tiered warning system, and thus reduce the effectiveness of the non-activated WC-9 sign.

In conjunction with this policy change, the recommended practices guideline for the use of the standard (non-activated) WC-9 sign has been updated to ensure more consistent deployment across the province. The revised guideline provides specific criteria pertaining to when a WC-9 sign should be installed or removed. It also indicates the distance in advance of the bus stop the WC-9 sign should be placed.

Key Changes

The department's revised policy is as follows:

- No new Active School Bus Stop Ahead signs should be utilized in advance of a school bus stop.
- Existing Active School Bus Stop Ahead signs should be phased out and removed once the signs are no longer required (i.e., the school bus stop is no longer in use, or the sight obstruction has been removed).

The new standards as indicated in this Bulletin are to be implemented immediately as per the usual practice.

Effective Date

June 24, 2009

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References

TAC Guidelines for the Application and Implementation of Active Warning Devices in Advance of School Bus Stops Technical Memorandum #1: Research Recommended Practices: School Bus Stop Ahead Sign

Approved:

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