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Ernest Huckaby, Team Leader
MUTCD
Federal Highway Administration
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Huckaby:

I would like to submit a suggestion for consideration to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). I would like to suggest that the current marker in standard use for our U.S. Numbered Highways be changed. There are two problems with the current markers, which are simply a white shield on a rectangular black background, that need to be addressed.

- (1.) Their rectangular shape is the same as standard speed limit signs and other rectangular signs which can be somewhat confusing to motorists at times. In many states they look almost identical at a distance to state highway markers.
- (2.) The markers do not actually say "U.S." on them - a glaring oversight.

I would like to suggest that consideration be given to changing the signs to conform to the following example given:



ADVANTAGES TO THE DESIGN

- (1.) The "cut out" design shown above can be easily recognized by motorists traveling in either direction.
- (2.) The sign is clearly marked "US".
- (3.) It is already in current use in one western state.
- (4.) It is esthetically pleasing.

It is my sincere hope that the MUTCD would consider adopting this sign. If it were to be adopted, compliance by the Nation's state highway departments would not necessarily have to be mandatory by any means. States that wish to adopt it could make the transition on a basis of attrition, changing out the old signs when they need replacing.

I would be most grateful to hear what your thoughts are on the subject. Any response would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Cain, 01/30/03

Fred M. Cain, January 30", 2003

CC: Shelley Row, Director, Office of Trans. Operations, FHWA
Donna Tamburelli, Special Assistant, AASHTO