

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: ENGINEERING AND ADMINISTRATION WARNING SIGNS		NUMBER: TE-280.1
		TO SUPERSEDE: TE-280
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON INSTALLATION OF WATCH FOR CHILDREN SIGNS		DATE: November 7, 2012 Errata changes Oct. 27, 2014
		SUNSET DATE: N/A
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators Regional Operations Directors Residency Administrators District Land Use Engineers Regional Traffic Engineers Regional Operations Maintenance Managers	SIGNATURE: State Traffic Engineer Signed by Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. November 7, 2012 Original on file in the Traffic Engineering Division	

This updated memorandum is issued to address changes in the Code of Virginia and to provide additional guidance not contained in the current 2011 Edition of the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD:
http://www.virginiadot.org/business/virginia_mutcd_supplement.asp

In the 2012 General Assembly, HB 914 was passed to amend ~~§33.1-210.2~~ §33.2-251 of the Code of Virginia, which became effective July 1, 2012. The amended code provides that the county or town may install and maintain “Watch for Children” warning signs (W15-V1) at certain locations through an agreement with the Commissioner and that the county or town will pay for the associated purchase, installation & maintenance costs. The amended section deleted previous language stipulating the particular source of funding to be used by the County for such signs.

~~§33.1-210.2~~ §33.2-251. Installation and maintenance of ~~certain~~ “children at play” signs in counties and towns.

The governing body of any county or town may enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Highways allowing the county or town to install and maintain, at locations specified in such agreement, signs alerting motorists that children may be at play nearby. The cost of the signs and their installation shall be paid by the county or town.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to any county that has withdrawn its roads from the secondary system of state highways under the provisions of § 11 of Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1932 and has not elected to return.

Guidance

In accordance with the revised statute, a County or Town may initiate the installation of these signs **only** by entering into an agreement with VDOT.

The process prescribed in the previous statute where a County or Town could request the sign(s) by a resolution to VDOT is **no longer an option**.

As specified in the revised statute, the County or Town must pay for the signs. Secondary roadway construction or maintenance funds or any other VDOT monies may not be used.

In 2011 dollars, the average cost to purchase and install a single such sign is \$850.

In all cases where the County or Town is installing and maintaining the signs directly or through another party, a land use permit is required.

This document includes a template for the agreement that should be used for handling requests from a county or town for these signs and an addendum to be used where additional signs are subsequently requested.

The agreement template incorporates VDOT's requirements (other than conditions of the land use permit) as well as criteria for the appropriate sign and its placement, installation, maintenance and replacement.

To process requests from a County/Town for additional signs (subsequent to those indicated in the original signed agreement) the addendum shall be used so that the additional sign locations become part of the agreement.

VDOT's Land Use Office will issue a single land use permit for each county/town request for a sign or series of signs that are indicated in the request and meet the conditions of the agreement. An additional land use permit is required for each subsequent request for a sign or series of signs as per the attached addendum.

The District Administrator is the only party authorized to enter into agreements with localities on behalf of the Commissioner therefore his or her signature is required on the attached agreement template. However, the VDOT Land Development Engineer is the only VDOT signature required for the addendum.

Maintenance & Replacement of Existing W15-V1 Signs

- Maintenance of existing (yellow) W15-V1 signs installed by VDOT remain the responsibility of VDOT and may remain until they reach the end of their useful life at which time they may or may not (at the discretion of VDOT) be replaced in accordance with current standards, where they meet the requirements stipulated in this agreement for appropriate placement, otherwise they shall be removed and not replaced.

- Existing inventories of the yellow background W15-V1 may be utilized for maintenance replacements.

References

- *Code of Virginia*, §§ ~~§33.1-210.2~~ [§33.2-251](#)
- FHWA's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD
- VDOT Road & Bridge Standards

CC: Mr. Greg Whirley

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, P.E.

Ms. Constance S. Sorrell

Mr. Malcolm T. Kerley, P.E.

Regional Traffic Engineers

District Transportation and Land Use Directors

Regional Operations Maintenance Managers

Residency Administrators

AGREEMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF

“WATCH FOR CHILDREN” SIGNS BY COUNTY OR TOWN

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the COUNTY OR TOWN OF _____, to enter into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), to install and maintain W15-V1 “Watch for Children” sign(s), at locations within its legal boundaries that are indicated on the attached sheet(s), in accordance with the conditions outlined in this agreement.

FURTHER, all future installations of such signs at locations (not specified in this agreement) shall likewise conform to the stipulations of this agreement and shall be submitted to VDOT using the addendum included in this document for that purpose.

Type of Sign to be used

- The size and type of sign to be used to alert motorists that children may be at play nearby is the W15-V1, detailed in the latest edition of the Virginia Supplement to FHWA’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). See <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/manuals-default.asp>.
- New installations of the W15-V1 shall be fluorescent yellow-green background color.
- The sign materials shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the VDOT Road & Bridge Specifications. See <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/manuals-default.asp>.

Placement of W15-V1 Signs

- Within a subdivision, a single sign may be placed on streets that are major entry points where the statutory or posted speed limit is 35 mph or less, beyond but not within 200 feet of, the posted speed limit sign.
- At the major approach(s) to a residential development not within or part of a subdivision where there is 1/3 mile or more of residential development (either side of roadway) with direct frontage/access and where the speed limit has been reduced to 35 mph or less; a single sign may be installed beyond but not within 200 feet from, the (reduced) posted speed limit sign.
- As generally outlined in the latest edition of MUTCD. See <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/manuals-default.asp>
- Signs shall not be installed where indicated as follows:
 - On any roadway where the speed limit exceeds 35 mph
 - In lieu of a standard Playground sign (W15-1), used to warn motorists of a designated playground
 - At a location where School warning signs are in place
 - In combination (same pole) with any other regulatory or warning signs
 - Preceding any existing regulatory or warning signs
 - Closer than 200 feet to any existing regulatory or warning signs
- Should VDOT determine that another regulatory or warning sign must be placed such that it would violate the rules above, the VDOT sign will take priority and the Watch for Children sign will be relocated by the county/town at their expense.

Installation of W15-V1 Signs

The sign installation shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the VDOT Road & Bridge Standards. See <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/manuals-default.asp>.

Maintenance & Replacement of W15-V1 Signs

- Signs not installed or maintained in accordance with the latest edition of the MUTCD, the VDOT Road & Bridge Standards, the conditions of the land use permit and other requirements stipulated in this agreement will be removed by VDOT at the expense of the county or town.

THEREFORE, the COUNTY OR TOWN shall conduct the purchase, installation and maintenance of new W15-V1 signs and shall maintain such signs as outlined in this agreement and in accordance with requirements of the land use permit.

FURTHERMORE, it is mutually agreed between the COUNTY OR TOWN and VDOT that all W15-V1 signs shall (1) conform to requirements indicated in this agreement, in the MUTCD and the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD, the VDOT Road & Bridge Standards, the VDOT Road & Bridge Specifications and; (2) the COUNTY OR TOWN will bear all costs pertaining to the purchase, installation and maintenance of such sign(s) and accessories necessary for proper erection of the signs and; (3) in the event the COUNTY OR TOWN should fail to locate, install and maintain such sign(s) according to this agreement and the stipulations of the land use permit, the signs will be removed by VDOT at the expense of the COUNTY/TOWN.

SIGNATURE of COUNTY OR TOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Title

Date

(The Locality shall submit this AGREEMENT to their local VDOT representative)

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For VDOT Use Only

Approved: _____ Date _____
(District Administrator)

ADDENDUM # _____ TO ORIGINAL AGREEMENT FOR

THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF

“WATCH FOR CHILDREN” SIGNS

ADDITIONAL SIGN LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the COUNTY OR TOWN OF _____, to conduct the purchase, installation and maintenance of the additional W15-V1 signs specified in the list attached to this addendum,

FURTHER, all the additional signs indicated in this addendum shall be in accordance with the original signed agreement as attached to this document and,

FURTHER, the additional signs indicated in this addendum MAY NOT be installed without issuance of a land use permit.

SIGNATURE of COUNTY OR TOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Title

Date

(The Locality shall submit this AGREEMENT to their local VDOT representative)

=====
For VDOT Use Only

Approved: _____ Date _____
(Land Development Engineer)

