


## MEMO

February 25, 2016

**To:** District Engineers

**From:** Carol T. Rawson, P.E., Director  
Traffic Operations Division 

**Subject:** Railroad Crossing Detail (RCD) Standard Sheets

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The new Railroad Crossing Details (RCD) standard sheets (RCD(1)-16 and RCD(2)-16) are now available for use. These sheets are considered new standards and replace the following standard sheets:

- RCSS(1)-09
- RCSS(2)-09
- RCPM-09
- RCAWSS-98

On projects involving grade crossings, the RCD(1) and RCD(2) standard sheets are to be used together in the plan set. This applies to construction, Federal Signal Program (FSP) and replanking projects.

The RCD sheets will be required for construction projects beginning with the September 2016 letting, but may be used sooner at the designer's discretion. They are to be used immediately on plan sets being developed for FSP and replanking projects.

There were a few common questions raised by districts during review of these sheets. We will answer these below.

1. Where and at what distance from the tracks do we install the DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS (R8-8) signs? At this time, this issue is being discussed within the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). We will wait until the NCUTCD makes a final ruling as to an exact location and distance. However, per General Note 6 on RCD(2), we recommend that this sign is installed in such a way as not to block the railroad mast.
2. Are we required to install longitudinal striping through a grade crossing? The issue of extending the striping through a grade crossing is also being discussed at the NCUTCD. If this is adopted in the new national or Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD), we will revise the RCD standards as needed to make this a requirement. Until then, per General Note 4 on RCD(1), designers have the option to do this. We recommend this be considered at multiple track crossings, skewed crossings, or crossings where vehicles driving down the tracks has been an issue in the past.
3. Do we have to install the Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1) sign and adjacent railroad crossing pavement markings exactly as shown in Table 1 on the RCD sheets? The distances in

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3. Do we have to install the Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1) sign and adjacent railroad crossing pavement markings exactly as shown in Table 1 on the RCD sheets? The distances in Table 1 are taken directly from Table 2C-4 of the TMUTCD, Condition B, 0 mph. However, per Section 2C.05 of the TMUTCD, 'The distances contained in Table 2C-4 are for guidance purposes and should be applied with engineering judgment.' General Note 4 on RCD(2) has been added to clarify that the distances shown may be shifted if necessary.
4. Do these standard sheets indicate that pavement markings are required at all grade crossings? No. Per Section 8B.27 of the TMUTCD, pavement markings are not required on roadways that do not have paved surfaces. The TMUTCD defines paved as 'a bituminous surface treatment, mixed bituminous concrete, or Portland cement concrete roadway surface that has both a structural (weight bearing) and a sealing purpose for the roadway.' Pavement markings may not be required on all paved surfaces at grade crossings, provided that none of the "shall" conditions are violated in Section 8B.27.
5. The railroad crossing pavement markings in our district were installed according to the distances shown in RCPM-09. The distances shown in the RCD sheets are significantly closer. Do we have to update all of our pavement markings immediately? No. Pavement markings and signs should be updated to the current standards whenever a surfacing maintenance, construction, or FSP project impacts a crossing.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Travis at (512) 416-2635, Mark Johnson at (512) 416-2277, or me at (512) 416-3200.

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