



April 3, 2007

TO: Kevin Dayton Don Senn
Dave Dye Don Wagner
Lorena Eng Don Whitehouse
Jerry Lenzi

THRU: John Conrad 

FROM: Pasco Bakotich, State Design Engineer 
Chris Christopher, State Maintenance Engineer 
Linea Laird, State Construction Engineer 
Ted Trepanier, State Traffic Engineer 

SUBJECT: Best Practice/NOTICE TRAFFIC FINES DOUBLE IN WORK ZONES Sign

The objective of this memo is to clarify and provide some “best practice” guidance on the use of the NOTICE TRAFFIC FINES DOUBLE IN WORK ZONES sign (I20-301).

WSDOT and WSP recognize that the sign is not required to be posted at the work zone in order to enforce RCW 46.61.527. Several public education efforts were conducted around the state throughout the mid to late 90s by posting the signs at various locations that were not necessarily associated with an actual work zone. In 2000, the HQ Traffic Office distributed a memo to the regions with instructions to remove signs that were not part of an active work zone.

Recent discussions with the Work Zone Safety Task Force, including the WSP, resulted in the following “best practice” guidance and clarification:

- The most effective use of the double fine signs is in an active or ongoing work zone or as part of a specific public education campaign (work zone awareness week, etc.).
- The signs do not have to be posted to enforce the law, but can be helpful in supporting citations in court.
- All work zones are subject to the “double fines” law, including mobile or short duration maintenance operations.
- At the Regional Administrator’s discretion, the specific placement and use of these signs may be adapted as best suited to work zone and traffic conditions. A recommended best practice is that sign I20-301 be installed as part of the mainline class “A” advance warning sign sequence, after the lead WORK ZONE AHEAD, GIVE’EM A BRAKE or the ROAD WORK AHEAD (W20-1) sign(s). Additional “double fines” signs may be used at other locations deemed to have strategic value.

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As with most safety initiatives involving the use of signs, we cannot assume that the message is clear, understood by drivers or that the desired outcome is achieved by the sign alone. Effectiveness is largely determined by our ability to strategically use the sign as a component in an overall safety campaign. WSP & WSDOT partnering in this effort to educate drivers and reduce speeds in work zones is a key component to success.

We encourage ongoing coordination of this subject matter with your WSP District and WSDOT Region design and construction staff and consideration of further dissemination of this information as best suits your combined needs.

TT:vst

cc: Rick Gifford
Chad Hancock
Steve Kim
Mark Leth
Jennene Ring
Harold White