



---

DATE: March 6, 2023  
TO: Wisconsin Bridge Inspection Team Leaders and Program Managers, Wisconsin County Highway Commissioners  
FROM: David Bohnsack, P.E.  
SUBJECT: Advanced Bridge Load Posting (Weight Limit) Signage

This Memorandum is meant to clear up some confusion and conflicting guidance regarding where advanced bridge load posting signage should be placed.

Load posting signs and installation shall comply with Section 2B.59 of the [FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD) and the [Wisconsin MUTCD](#). Bridges requiring load posting may also require advance posting signs at the nearest intersecting roads or other points where **a driver can detour or turn around**.

Below is the wording from Section 2B.59:

*Standard: An R12-55 (X) Ton Bridge (X) Miles Ahead sign or R12-57 Weight Limit – 2 Axle Vehicles – (X) Tons – 3 or more Axle Vehicles (X) Tons – Combination Vehicles (X) Tons – On Bridge – (X) Miles Ahead, shall be erected in advance of a bridge on which a weight restriction has been established.*

*Guidance: If used, the Weight Limit sign with an advisory distance ahead legend should be **placed at approach road intersections or other points where prohibited vehicles can detour or turn around.***

A bridge located close enough to an intersecting road that the load posting sign can clearly be read from that intersection should have the advanced sign placed at a further approach intersection.

Additional advanced warning signs can be placed at other approach road intersections that may generate prohibited vehicles.

QUESTIONS: For information on the contents of this memorandum, or questions, please contact David Bohnsack at (608) 785-9781.

David Bohnsack, P.E.  
Chief Structures Maintenance Engineer  
Bureau of Structures – Maintenance Section  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707