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TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

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“CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGNING

When a particular request is received to install “Children at Play” or similar signing, it is usually associated with the fact that on or near a particular section of roadway, a child or children may be present at various times of the day. This may occur for a wide range of reasons such as their attending school or school activities, participating in neighborhood and recreational activities, running errands, riding bicycles, or just playing on or close to a roadway.

When this occurs, various signing alternatives are available to address specific situations. For example, an investigation should be initiated to make sure a speed limit is posted; however, if this is not feasible due to geometric and/or operating conditions, or because a speed limit below 25 mph cannot legally be posted, then other signing options should be considered. These options include the use of a yellow and black advisory speed plaque mounted underneath a primary warning sign.

The primary warning sign to be initially considered is the recreational area symbol which depicts two children on a teeter totter. Other alternatives to be considered include the use of warning messages, such as NARROW ROADWAY, PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, BYCYCLE CROSSING, ROUGH ROAD, etc.

Should it not be practical or feasible to (1) post a legal speed limit, (2) place a RECREATIONAL AREA WARNING sign assembly, or (3) install other warning signs, then consideration may be given to a CHILDREN PRESENT sign assembly, which includes an advisory speed plaque or a NEXT X MILE plaque. However, since the other signing alternatives convey to motorists specific regulations or warning or more permanent roadway conditions rather than conditions that may exist at unspecified times, CHILDREN PRESENT signs should only be installed after all the other alternatives have been considered.

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