

## CITY OF PITTSBURGH

**TO:** Pat Hassett  
 Assistant Director
   
 **DEPARTMENT:** Department of Public Works/  
 Bureau of Engineering and  
 Construction

**FROM:** Amanda Broadwater, P.E. *AB*  
 Traffic Engineer
   
 **DEPARTMENT:** Department of Public Works/  
 Bureau of Engineering and  
 Construction

**DATE:** January 28, 2008

**SUBJECT:** "WATCH CHILDREN" (W15-2)  
**SIGN WARRANTS FOR THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH**

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This memorandum is intended to be a guide for determining when a "Watch Children" sign may be warranted.

### Introduction:

Within the City of Pittsburgh, requests are regularly received for the installation of "Watch Children" signs. Currently, City staff reviews each request, makes a decision, and then provides written correspondence documenting the supporting information for the decision. This memorandum is intended to streamline that review process by providing set criteria for when the "Watch Children" signs may be considered.

### Policy:

Per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), warning signs such as the "Watch Children" sign shall be used conservatively and shall give notice of a situation that might not be readily apparent. Although the MUTCD does not provide warrants for each typical warning sign, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bulletin 236M provides additional guidance on the applicability and placement of signs. For the "Watch Children" sign, the City of Pittsburgh policy shall be to abide by the approved PennDOT policy with one exemption. PennDOT authorizes use of the "Watch Children" sign for use along roads where there are no sidewalks and where a regular number of children normally play or walk. In addition, the City of Pittsburgh allows "Watch Children" signs at daycare centers. (If in the event the daycare center no longer exists at the given location, the "Watch Children" sign may be removed at the City's discretion.)

"Watch Children" signs will not be used at school zones or playgrounds. School zone signage can be installed at designated school locations, and playground signs can be installed at playgrounds. Signage requests for other land uses will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the appropriate signage, if any, will be recommended. For example on residential streets, a speed limit sign may be more appropriate and effective than a "Watch Children" sign to remind drivers of their speed through a neighborhood.

AB:cd

cc: Guy Costa, DPW / Sidney Kaikai, DCP / John Doherty, Law / File

**References:**

1. U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Highway and Streets 2003 Edition including Revision 1 dated November 2004, <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1/pdf-index.htm>
2. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering, Handbook of Approved Signs Publication 236M. <ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Publications/PUB%20236M/236M%20Cover.pdf>