



Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-3-65
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 3	Warning Signs
SUBJECT 65	Rumble Strip Signing

A. General

In an effort to reduce run off the road and head-on collisions, the Department has implemented the usage of continuous rumble strips on rural two-lane roadways, in accordance with FDM 11-15-1. The rumble strips will be installed on the centerline location and the edge line locations. The centerline and/or edgeline marking can either be applied within the rumble strip or to the side of the rumble strip.

The usage of centerline and shoulder rumble strips has proven to be quite effective since they were installed on STH 142, Kenosha County in 2006 as a test location. A 2005 NCHRP Report (Synthesis 399) has shown several states where crashes were reduced as a result of centerline rumble strips. However, the NCHRP report did indicate some potential concerns with the application of the centerline rumble strips. Motorists are not normally accustomed to continuous rumbles, especially on the centerline. There is the concern that upon running over a centerline rumble, a motorist could “react to the left” and thus move to the left of the centerline. There are also concerns from ambulance drivers that the driving over a centerline rumble would potentially cause monitors to malfunction.

Because the centerline rumbles are more unexpected to the motorist than edgeline rumbles, and in response to the concerns outlined above from the NCHRP report, WisDOT will install the Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70 sign) on roadway segments having the centerline rumbles as an interim measure to assist in the education of motorists. Over time as additional rural two-lane roadway segments receive centerline rumble strips, motorists will become more accustomed to them and warning signs will no longer be necessary.

The policy below will address the installation of centerline rumble strip warning signs on WisDOT maintained roadways,

B. Policy**For current Centerline Rumble Strip projects (Let prior to December 2013)**

1. The Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70 sign) **shall** be placed at the beginning of the centerline rumble strips with a supplemental mileage plaque (W57-51 sign).
2. The Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70 sign) *should* be placed after major sideroads (STH and CTH intersections) with the mileage plaque (W57-51 sign).
3. The distance between the Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70) warning signs *should* be no more than 5 miles.

For Centerline Rumble Strip projects (Let date of December 2013 and after)

1. The Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70 sign) with a supplemental mileage plaque (W57-51 sign) **shall not** be installed.
2. Centerline Rumble Strip (W8-70 sign) with a mileage plaque (W57-51 sign) that have previously been installed on projects will be allowed to remain until the end of their useful life or when opportunities arise such as knockdown or damage or projects make removal practical.