



**TRAFFIC SAFETY
COMMISSION**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Washington Traffic Safety Commission

January 18, 2024

Received from Carl Pedersen December 19, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Wenatchee and life long [sic] Washington resident, I want to share some insight and thoughts. Washington has many non-English speakers, many are illiterate. Many are visitors from other countries. Many do not understand our traffic signage. If you cannot read, then you cannot understand signs like “when towing use truck speed” or “seatbelts required” or “one-way”. We have many new migrants and temporary agriculture workers here. As a retired Firefighter, I have seen the results of not wearing a seatbelt, getting T-boned by a vehicle which was lifted and is illegally on the roadway (see bumper heights), and racing. But, I will get back to my initial concern.

Worldwide, they (not the USA) tend to use the international traffic symbols of the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals. Those signs approved by the Vienna Convention are symbols understood in any language or competency.

It would be nice if our country would adopt international signage. We use the Federal approved signs listed in MUTCD and SHS manuals. Apparently, we attempted to move to the international one, but Americans could not understand pictures.

Why not have a similar towing sign like other states nearby instead of TRUCK 60:

This sign makes it pretty clear to the contractor towing their trailer on the freeway with a large SUV what their maximum speed limit is.



This sign is useless to towing drivers:



C. Pedersen cont'd.

As for Seat Belt use, why not make our [sic] like this one:

Especially in Eastern Washington, Spanish speakers do not understand or choose to ignore the seatbelt requirements. Please consider the electronic traffic signs to state the message in English and Spanish in Eastern Washington at a minimum.

Thank you,
Carl Pedersen
Wenatchee, WA

