



SMART Transportation Division  
(formerly United Transportation Union)  
**Local 1626**

Serving the Alaska Railroad and White Pass & Yukon Railway



## MEMBER ALERT

Date: June 29, 2017

In August of 2016 the company imposed a permanent 40 MPH speed restriction at the Eagle River bridge between MP 127.42 and 127.52 and issued General Order No. 8 dated August 26, 2016 announcing this permanent restriction. The company also installed permanent Advance Warning Speed Control Signs and permanent Speed Control signs at the limits of the restriction for northward and southward movements.

Timetable 140 (the employee timetable in effect at the time these signs were installed, and in effect at the time of this alert) Special Instruction 82.38.6 "Advance Warning Speed Control Sign" specifies that these signs be placed 1/2 mile (2,640 feet) in advance of the permanent speed restriction.

While investigating a later speed incident at this location, the local discovered that the distance from the southbound Advance Warning Speed Control Sign to the 40 MPH permanent speed restriction was 2,054 feet and the distance from the northbound Advance Warning Speed Control Sign to the 40 MPH Permanent Speed Restriction was 2,042 feet. That put the southbound advance sign 586 feet nearer to the permanent restriction than specified by TTSI 82.38.6, and the northward advance sign 598 feet nearer to the permanent restriction, which is clearly not in compliance with TTSI 82.38.6.

After nearly a year the company has made no attempt to correct the locations of the Advance Warning Speed Control Signs to comply with TTSI 82.38.6, nor have they provided any warning of this to T&E through G.O., track bulletin, or other means of communication.

The local is therefore advising all train and engine personnel of this discrepancy and urges all personnel to exercise extra vigilance at this speed restriction by announcing it in advance of the Advance Warning Speed Control Sign and providing plenty of time and distance to comply with this 20 MPH speed reduction regardless of the improper and non-complying Advance Warning Speed Control Sign placement.

### **Update as of July 13, 2017**

With the release of General Order 20, dated July 16, 2017 the company has changed TTSI 82.38.6 Advance Warning Speed Control Sign by changing it to read;

"Placed **approximately** 1/2 mile in advance of a permanent speed restriction. Black numbers on yellow sign."

Note: No definition for the term "approximately" has been provided. The Advance Warning Speed Control Signs at this location are more than 20% out of tolerance so the term "approximate" seems to have little meaning. All members should be aware of this in the field.