CHAPTER 2I. GENERAL SERVICE SIGNS

Section 2I.01 Sizes of General Service Signs

Standard:

01 **Except as provided in Section 2A.11, the sizes of General Service signs that have a standardized design shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Support:

02 Section 2A.1 1 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns in Table 2I-1.

Option:

03 Signs larger than those shown in Table 2I-1 may be used (see Section 2A.1 1).

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 1 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Rest Area XX Miles	D5-1	2I.05	66 x 36*	96 x 54*
Rest Area Next Right	D5-1a	2I.05	78 x 36*	120 x 60* (F) 114 x 48* (E)
Rest Area (with arrow)	D5-2	2I.05	66 x 36*	96 x 54*
Rest Area Gore	D5-2a	2I.05	42 x 48*	78 x 78* (F) 66 x 72* (E)
Rest Area (with horizontal arrow)	D5-5	2I.05	42 x 48*	—
Next Rest Area XX Miles	D5-6	2I.05	60 x 48*	90 x 72*
Rest Area Vending Machines Plaque	D5-Y9	2I.05	-	96 x 24
Rest Area Tourist Info Center XX Miles	D5-7	2I.08	90 x 72*	114 x 102* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center (with arrow)	D5-8	2I.08	84 x 72*	120 x 102* (F) 120 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center Next Right	D5-1 1	2I.08	90 x 72*	144 x 102* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Interstate Oasis	D5-12	2I.04	—	156 x 78
Interstate Oasis (plaque)	D5-12P	2I.04	—	114 x 48
Brake Check Area XX Miles	D5-13	2I.06	84 x 48	126 x 72
Brake Check Area (with arrow)	D5-14	2I.06	78 x 60	96 x 72
Chain-Up Area XX Miles	D5-15	2I.07	66 x 48	96 x 72
Chain-Up Area (with arrow)	D5-16	2I.07	72 x 54	96 x 66
Point of Interest XX Miles	D5-Y17	2I.08	36 x 24	-
Historical Marker XX Miles	D5-Y18	2I.08	36 x 24	-
Telephone	D9-1	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Hospital	D9-2	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Camping	D9-3	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Trailer Camping	D9-3a	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Litter Container	D9-4	2I.02	24 x 30	36 x 48
Handicapped	D9-6	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Van Accessible (plaque)	D9-6P	2I.02	18 x 9	—
Gas	D9-7	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Food	D9-8	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Lodging	D9-9	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Tourist Information	D9-10	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Diesel Fuel	D9-1 1	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Alternative Fuel - Compressed Natural Gas	D9-1 1a	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Electric Vehicle Charging	D9-1 1b	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Electric Vehicle Charging (plaque)	D9-1 1 bP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Alternative Fuel - Ethanol	D9-1 1c	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
RV Sanitary Station	D9-12	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Emergency Medical Services	D9-13	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 2 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Hospital (plaque)	D9-13aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Ambulance Station (plaque)	D9-13bP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Emergency Medical Care (plaque)	D9-13cP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Trauma Center (plaque)	D9-13dP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Police	D9-14	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Propane Gas	D9-15	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Truck Parking	D9-16	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Next Services XX Miles (plaque)	D9-17P	2I.02	102 x 24	156 x 30
General Services (up to 6 symbols)	D9-18	2I.03	—	96 x 60
General Services	D9-18a	2I.03	—	96 x 60
General Services (up to 6 symbols) with Action or Exit Information	D9-18b	2I. 03	108 x 84	132 x 1 14 (F) 132 x 108 (E)
General Services with Action or Exit Information	D9-18c	2I.03	72 x 60**	132 x 108** (F) 108 x 84** (E)
Pharmacy	D9-20	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
24-Hour (plaque)	D9-20aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf	D9-21	2I.05	24 x 24	30 x 30
Wireless Internet	D9-22	2I.05	24 x 24	30 x 30
Weather Information	D1 2-1	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x 84
Traffic Information	D12-Y1a, Y1b	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x84
Carpool Information	D12-2	2I.11	60 x 42	96 x 66
Channel 9 Monitored	D1 2-3	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x 84
Emergency Call 911	D12-4	2I.09	66 x 30	96 x 48
Travel Info Call 511 (pictograph)	D12-5	2I.10	42 x 60	66 x 78
Travel Info Call 511	D12-5a	2I.10	48 x 36	66 x 48
Travel Time	D12-Y6	2I.12	-	Varies

* The size shown is for a sign with a REST AREA and/or TOURIST INFO CENTER legend. The size should be appropriately adjusted if an alternate legend is used.

** The size shown is for a sign with four lines of services. The size should be appropriately adjusted depending on the amount of legend displayed.

Notes: 1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate
2. Dimensions in inches are shown as width x height
3. Where two sizes are shown, the larger size is for freeways (F) and the smaller size is for expressways (E)

Section 2I.02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads

Support:

01 On conventional roads, commercial services such as gas, food, and lodging generally are within sight and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover, General Service signing is usually not required in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement assistance, tourist information centers, and camping.

Option:

02 General Service signs (see Figure 2I-1) may be used where such services are infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Standard:

03 **All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background.**

Guidance:

04 *General Service signs should be installed at a suitable distance in advance of the turn-off point or intersecting highway.*

05 *States that elect to provide General Service signing should establish a statewide policy or warrant for its use, and criteria for the availability of services. Local jurisdictions electing to use such signing should follow State policy for the sake of uniformity.*

Option:

06 Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.

Figure 2I-1. General Service Signs and Plaques

D9-1
Telephone

D9-2
Hospital

D9-3
Camping

D9-3a
Trailer Camping

D9-4
Litter Container

D9-6
Handicapped

D9-6P

D9-7
Gas

D9-8
Food

D9-9
Lodging

D9-10
Tourist Information

D9-11
Diesel Fuel

D9-1 1a
Alternative Fuel-
Compressed
Natural Gas

D9-1 1b
Electric Vehicle
Charging

D9-11bP
Electric Vehicle
Charging

D9-1 1 c
Alternative Fuel-
Ethanol

D9-1 2
RV Sanitary
Station

D9-1 3
Emergency
Medical Services

D9-1 3aP
Hospital

D9-13bP
Ambulance Station

D9-1 3cP
Emergency
Medical Care

D9-1 3dP
Trauma Center

D9-14
Police

D9-1 5
Propane Gas

D9-1 6
Truck Parking

D9-20
Pharmacy

D9-20aP
24-Hour

D9-21
Telecommunication
Device for the Deaf

D9-22
Wireless Internet

Advance Turn and Directional Arrow Auxiliary Signs for use with General Service Signs

M5-1

M5-2

M6-1

M6-2

M6-3

Example of
directional
assembly

Standard:

07 **General Service signs, if used at intersections, shall be accompanied by a directional message.**

Option:

08 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs with white arrows on blue backgrounds as shown in Figure 2I-1 may be used with General Service symbol signs to create a General Service Directional Assembly.

09 The General Service sign legends may be either symbols or word messages.

Standard:

10 **Symbols and word message General Service legends shall not be intermixed on the same sign. The Pharmacy (D9-20) sign shall only be used to indicate the availability of a pharmacy that is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and that is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system. The D9-20 sign shall have a 24 HR (D9-20aP) plaque mounted below it.**

Support:

11 Formats for displaying different combinations of these services are described in Section 2I.03.

Option:

12 If the distance to the next point at which services are available is 10 miles or more, a NEXT SERVICES XX MILES (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the General Service sign.

Figure 2I-2. Example of Next Services Plaque

D9-17P

13 The International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign may be used beneath General Service signs where paved ramps and rest room facilities accessible to, and usable by, the physically handicapped are provided.

Guidance:

14 *When the D9-6 sign is used in accordance with Paragraph 13, and van-accessible parking is available at the facility, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (D9-6P) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) should be mounted below the D9-6 sign.*

Option:

15 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for the use of dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

16 The Litter Container (D9-4) sign may be placed in advance of roadside turnouts or rest areas, unless it distracts the drivers attention from other more important regulatory, warning, or directional signs.

17 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) symbol sign may be used to identify medical service facilities that have been included in the Emergency Medical Services system under a signing policy developed by the State and/ or local highway agency.

Standard:

18 **The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall not be used to identify services other than qualified hospitals, ambulance stations, and qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers. If used, the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall be supplemented by a sign identifying the type of service provided.**

Option:

19 The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may be used above the HOSPITAL (D9-13a) sign or Hospital (D9-2) symbol sign or above a sign with the legend AMBULANCE STATION (D9-13b), EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE (D9-13c), or TRAUMA CENTER (D9-13d). The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may also be used to supplement Telephone (D9-1), Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3), or POLICE (D9-14) signs.

Standard:

20 **The legend EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE shall not be used for services other than qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers.**

Guidance:

21 *Each State should develop guidelines for the implementation of the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign.*

22 *The State should consider the following guidelines in the preparation of its policy:*

A. AMBULANCE

1. 24-hour service, 7 days per week.
2. Staffed by two State-certified persons trained at least to the basic level.
3. Vehicular communications with a hospital emergency department.
4. Operator should have successfully completed an emergency-vehicle operator training course.

B. HOSPITAL

1. 24-hour service, 7 days per week.
2. Emergency department facilities with a physician (or emergency care nurse on duty within the emergency department with a physician on call) trained in emergency medical procedures on duty.
3. Licensed or approved for definitive medical care by an appropriate State authority.
4. Equipped for radio voice communications with ambulances and other hospitals.

C. Channel 9 Monitored

1. Provided by either professional or volunteer monitors.
2. Available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
3. The service should be endorsed, sponsored, or controlled by an appropriate government authority to guarantee the level of monitoring.

Section 2I.03 General Service Signs for Freeways and Expressways

Support:

01 General Service (D9-18 series) signs (see Figure 2I-3) are generally not appropriate at major interchanges (see definition in Section 2E.32) and in urban areas.

Standard:

02 **General Service signs shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background. Letter and numeral sizes shall comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. All approved symbols shall be permitted as alternatives to word messages, but symbols and word service messages shall not be intermixed. If the services are not visible from the ramp of a single-exit interchange, the service signing shall be repeated in smaller size at the intersection of the exit ramp and the crossroad. Such service signs shall use arrows to indicate the direction to the services.**

Option:

03 For numbered interchanges, the exit number may be incorporated within the sign legend (D9-18b) or displayed on an Exit Number (E1-5P) plaque (see Section 2E.31).

Guidance:

04 *Distance to services should be displayed on General Service signs where distances are more than 1 mile.*

05 *General Service signing should only be provided at locations where the road user can return to the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.*

06 *Only services that fulfill the needs of the road user should be displayed on General Service signs. If State or local agencies elect to provide General Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:*

A Gas, Diesel, LP Gas, EV Charging, and/or other alternative fuels if all of the following are available:

1. Vehicle services such as gas, oil, and water;
2. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water;
3. Continuous operations at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week; and
4. Public telephone.

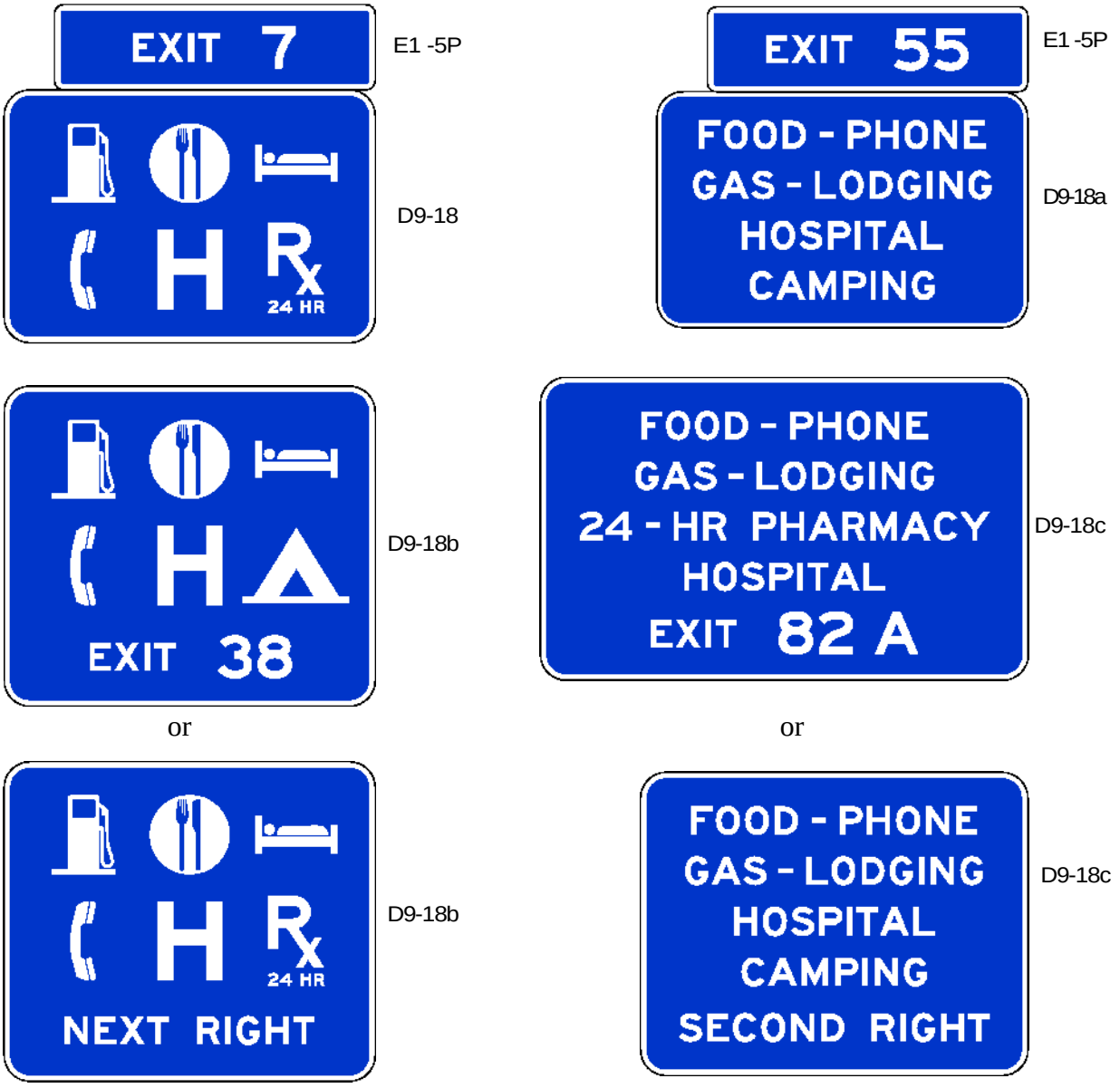
B. Food if all of the following are available:

1. Licensing or approval, where required;
2. Continuous operation to serve at least two meals per day, at least 6 days per week;
3. Public telephone; and
4. Modern sanitary facilities.

C. Lodging if all of the following are available:

1. Licensing or approval, where required;
2. Adequate sleeping accommodations;
3. Public telephone; and
4. Modern sanitary facilities.

Figure 2I-3. Examples of General Service Signs with and without Exit Numbering



D. Public Telephone if continuous operation, 7 days per week is available.

E. Hospital if continuous emergency care capability, with a physician on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week is available. A physician on duty would include the following criteria and should be signed in accordance with the priority as follows:

1. *Physician on duty within the emergency department;*
2. *Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician in the hospital on call; or*
3. *Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician on callfrom office or home.*

F. 24-Hour Pharmacy if a pharmacy is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system.

G. Camping if all of the following are available:

1. *Licensing or approval, where required;*
2. *Adequate parking accommodations; and*
3. *Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.*

Standard:

07 **For any service that is operated on a seasonal basis only, the General Service signs shall be removed or covered during periods when the service is not available.**

08 **The General Service signs shall be mounted in an effective location, between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign, in advance of the exit leading to the available services.**

Guidance:

09 *The General Service sign should contain the interchange number, if any, as shown in Figure 2I-3.*

Option:

10 If the distance to the next point where services are available is greater than 10 miles, a NEXT SERVICES XX MILES (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the Exit Direction sign.

Standard:

11 **Signs for services shall comply with the format for General Service signs (see Section 2I.02) and as provided in this Manual. No more than six general road user services shall be displayed on one sign, which includes any appended supplemental signs or plaques. General Service signs shall carry the legends for one or more of the following services: Food, Gas, Lodging, Camping, Phone, Hospital, 24-Hour Pharmacy, or Tourist Information.**

12 **The qualified services available shall be displayed at specific locations on the sign.**

13 **To provide flexibility for the future when the service might become available, the sign space normally reserved for a given service symbol or word shall be left blank when that service is not present.**

Guidance:

14 *The standard display of word messages should be FOOD and PHONE in that order on the top line, and GAS and LODGING on the second line. If used, HOSPITAL and CAMPING should be on separate lines (see Figure 2I-3).*

Option:

15 Signing for DIESEL, LP-Gas, or other alternative fuel services may be substituted for any of the general services or appended to such signs. The International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used for facilities that qualify.

Guidance:

16 *When symbols are used for the road user services, they should be displayed as follows:*

A. Six services:
   1. Top row-GAS, FOOD, and LODGING
   2. Bottom row-PHONE, HOSPITAL, and CAMPING

B. Four services:
   1. Top row-GAS and FOOD
   2. Bottom row-LODGING and PHONE

C. Three services:
   1. Top row-GAS, FOOD, and LODGING

Option:

17 Substitutions of other services for any of the services described in Paragraph 16 may be made by placing the substitution in the lower right (four or six services) or extreme right (three services) portion of the sign. An action message or an interchange number may be used for symbol signs in the same manner as they are used for word message signs. The Diesel Fuel (D9-11) symbol or the LP-Gas (D9-15) symbol may be substituted for the symbol representing fuel or appended to such assemblies. The Tourist Information (D9-10) symbol or the 24-Hour Pharmacy (D9-20 and D9-20aP) symbol may be substituted on any of the configurations provided in Paragraph 16.

18 At rural interchange areas where limited road user services are available and where it is unlikely that additional services will be provided within the near future, a supplemental plaque displaying one to three services (words or symbols) may be appended below a post-mounted interchange guide sign.

Standard:

19 **If more than three services become available at rural interchange areas where limited road user services were anticipated, the appended supplemental plaque described in Paragraph 18 shall be removed and replaced with an independently mounted General Service sign as described in this Section.**

Option:

20 A separate Telephone Service (D9-1) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be installed if telephone facilities are located adjacent to the route at places where public telephones would not normally be expected.

21 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

22 In some locations, signs may be used to indicate that services are not available.

23 A separate Truck Parking (D9-16) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be mounted below the other general road use services to direct truck drivers to designated parking areas.

Section 2I.04 Interstate Oasis Signing

Support:

01 An Interstate Oasis is a facility near an Interstate highway that provides products and services to the public, 24-hour access to public restrooms, and parking for automobiles and heavy trucks. Interstate Oasis guide signs inform road users on Interstate highways as to the presence of an Interstate Oasis at an interchange and which businesses have been designated by the State within which they are traveling as having met the eligibility criteria of the Federal Highway Administrations Interstate Oasis policy. The FHWAs policy, which is dated October 18, 2006, and which can be viewed on the MUTCD website at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-policy.htm, provides a more detailed definition of an Interstate Oasis and specifies the eligibility criteria for an Interstate Oasis designation in compliance with the requirements of laws enacted by Congress.

Guidance:

02 *If a State elects to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing (see Figure 2I-4), there should be a statewide policy, program, procedures, and criteria for the designation and signing of a facility as an Interstate Oasis that complies with FH WA s policy and with the provisions of this Section.*

03 *States electing to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing should use the following signing practices on the freeway for any given exit to identify the availability of a designated Interstate Oasis:*

A. *If adequate sign spacing allows, a separate Interstate Oasis (D5-12) sign should be installed in an effective location with spacing of at least 800 feet from other adjacent guide signs, including any Specific Service signs. This Interstate Oasis sign should be located upstream from the Advance Guide sign or between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign for the exit leading to the Interstate Oasis. The Interstate Oasis sign should have a white legend with a letter height of at least 10 inches and a white border on a blue background and should contain the words INTERSTATE OASIS and the exit number or, for an unnumbered interchange, an action message such as NEXT RIGHT. The names or logos of the businesses designated as Interstate Oases should not be included on this sign.*

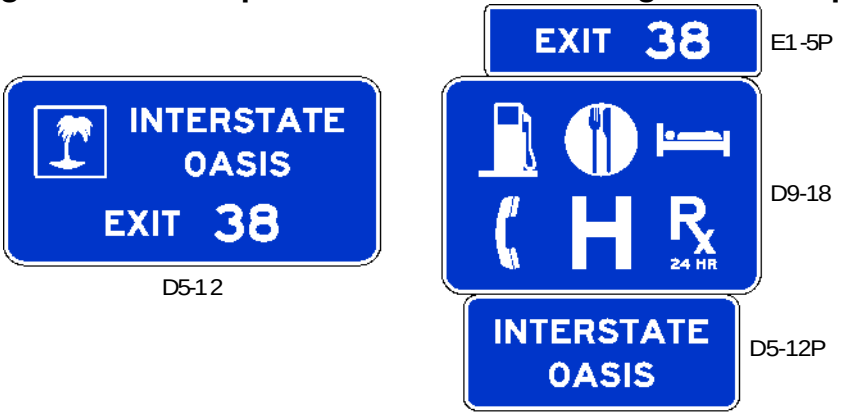
B. *If the spacing of the other guide signs precludes the use of a separate sign as described in Item A, an INTERSTATE OASIS (D5-12P) supplemental plaque with a letter height of at least 10 inches and with a white legend and border on a blue background should be appended above or below an existing D9-18 series General Service sign for the interchange.*

04 *If a separate Interstate Oasis (D5-12) sign is installed, an Interstate Oasis sign panel should be incorporated into the design of the sign (see Figure 2I-4).*

Standard:

05 **The Interstate Oasis sign panel shall only be used on the separate Interstate Oasis sign where it is accompanied by the words INTERSTATE OASIS and shall not be used independently without the words.**

Figure 2I-4. Examples of Interstate Oasis Signs and Plaques



Option:

06 If Specific Service signing is provided at the interchange, a business designated as an Interstate Oasis and having a business logo sign panel on the Food and/or Gas Specific Service signs may use the bottom portion of the business logo sign panel to display the word OASIS.

Standard:

07 **If Specific Services signs containing the OASIS legend as a part of the business logo(s) are not used on the ramp and if the Interstate Oasis is not clearly visible and identifiable from the exit ramp, a sign with a white INTERSTATE OASIS legend with a letter height of at least 6 inches and a white border on a blue background shall be provided on the exit ramp to indicate the direction and distance to the Interstate Oasis.**

08 **If needed, additional trailblazer guide signs shall be used along the crossroad to guide road users to an Interstate Oasis.**

Section 2I.05 Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs

Standard:

01 **Rest Area signs (see Figure 2I-5) shall have a retroreflective white legend and border on a blue background.**

02 **Signs that include the legend REST AREA shall be used only where parking and restroom facilities are available.**

Guidance:

03 *A roadside area that does not contain restroom facilities should be signed to indicate the major road user service that is provided. For example, the sign legends for an area with only parking should use the words PARKING AREA instead of REST AREA. The sign legends for an area with only picnic tables and parking should use words such as PICNIC AREA, ROADSIDE TABLE, or ROADSIDE PARK instead of REST AREA.*

04 *Rest areas that have tourist information and welcome centers should be signed as discussed in Section 2I.08.*

05 *Scenic area signing should be consistent with that provided for rest areas, except that the legends should use words such as SCENIC AREA, SCENIC VIEW, or SCENIC OVERLOOK instead of REST AREA.*

06 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a conventional road, a D5-1 and/or D5-1a sign should be installed in advance of the rest area or other roadside area to permit the driver to reduce speed in preparation for leaving the highway. A D5-5 sign (or a D5-2 sign if an exit ramp is provided) should be installed at the turnoff point where the driver needs to leave the highway to access the rest area or other roadside area.*

07 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a freeway or expressway, a D5-1 sign should be placed 1 mile and/or 2 miles in advance of the rest area.*

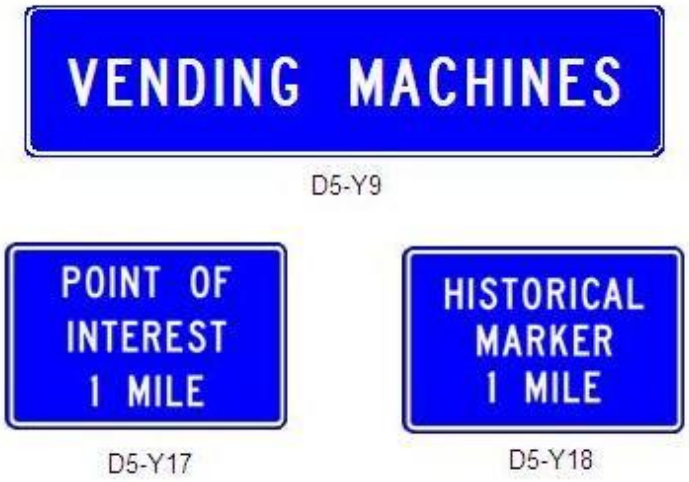
Standard:

08 **A D5-2a sign shall be placed at the rest area or other roadside area exit gore.**

Figure 2I-5. Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs

NOTE: Alternate legends may be substituted for the REST AREA legend, such as PARKING AREA, PICNIC AREA, ROADSIDE TABLE, ROADSIDE PARK, SCENIC AREA, SCENIC VIEW, and SCENIC OVERLOOK.

Figure 2I-5a. Indiana Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs



Option:

09 A D5-1a sign may be placed between the D5-1 sign and the exit gore on a freeway or expressway. A second D5-1 sign may be used in place of the D5-1a sign with a distance to the nearest 1/2 or 1/4 mile displayed as a fraction rather than a decimal for distances of less than 1 mile.

10 To provide the road user with information on the location of succeeding rest areas, a NEXT REST AREA XX MILES (D5-6) sign (see Figure 2I-5) may be installed independently or as a supplemental sign mounted below one of the REST AREA advance guide signs.

Standard:

11 **All signs on freeways and expressways for rest and other roadside areas shall have letter and numeral sizes that comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. The sizes for General Service signs that have standardized designs shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Option:

12 If the rest area has facilities for the physically impaired (see Section 2I.02), the International Symbol of Accessibility for the Handicapped (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be placed with or beneath the REST AREA advance guide sign.

13 If telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) are available at the rest area, the TDD (D9-21) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

14 If wireless Internet services are available at the rest area, the Wi-Fi (D9-22) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

15 If the rest area has vending machines a supplemental plaque may be used as shown in Figure 2I-5a (D5-Y9).

Section 2I.06 Brake Check Area Signs (D5-13 and D5-14)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to check the brakes on their vehicle, a BRAKE CHECK AREA XX MILES (D5-13) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the brake check area, and a D5-14 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the brake check area.*

Section 2I.07 Chain-Up Area Signs (D5-15 and D5-16)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to pull off of the roadway to install chains on their tires, a CHAIN-UP AREA XX MILES (D5-15) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the chain-up area, and a D5-16 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the chain-up area.*

Section 2I.08 Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs

Support:

01 Tourist information and welcome centers have been constructed within rest areas on freeways and expressways and are operated by either a State or a private organization. Others have been located within close proximity to these facilities and operated by civic clubs, chambers of commerce, or private enterprise.

Guidance:

02 *An excessive number of supplemental sign panels should not be installed with Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs so as not to overload the road user.*

Figure 2I-6. Brake Check Area and Chain-Up Area Signs

Standard:

03 **Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs (see Figure 2I-7) shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Continuously staffed or unstaffed operation at least 8 hours per day, 7 days per week, shall be required.**

04 **If operated only on a seasonal basis, the Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs shall be removed or covered during the off seasons.**

Guidance:

05 *For freeway or expressway rest area locations that also serve as tourist information or welcome centers, the following signing criteria should be used:*

A. *The locations for tourist information and welcome center Advance Guide, Exit Direction, and Exit Gore signs should meet the General Service signing requirements described in Section 2I.03.*
B. *If the signing for the tourist information or welcome center is to be accomplished in conjunction with the initial signing for the rest areas, the message on the Advance Guide (D5-7) sign should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER, XX MILES or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER XX MILES. On the Exit Direction (D5-8 or D5-11) sign the message should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT), or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT).*
C. *If the initial rest area Advance Guide and Exit Direction signing is in place, these signs should include, on supplemental signs, the legend TOURIST INFO CENTER or STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER.*
D. *The Exit Gore sign should contain only the legend REST AREA with the arrow and should not be supplemented with any legend pertaining to the tourist information center or welcome center.*

Option:

06 An alternative to the supplemental TOURIST INFO CENTER legend is the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1), which may be appended beneath the REST AREA advance guide sign.

07 The name of the State or local jurisdiction may appear on the Advance Guide and Exit Direction tourist information/welcome center signs if the jurisdiction controls the operation of the tourist information or welcome center and the center meets the operating criteria set forth in this Manual and is consistent with State policies.

Guidance:

08 *For tourist information centers that are located off the freeway or expressway facility, additional signing criteria should be as follows:*

A. *Each State should adopt a policy establishing the maximum distance that a tourist information center can be located from the interchange in order to be included on official signs.*
B. *The location of signing should be in accordance with requirements pertaining to General Service signing (see Section 2I.03).*
C. *Signing along the crossroad should be installed to guide the road user from the interchange to the tourist information center and back to the interchange.*

Option:

09 As an alternative, the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be appended to the guide signs for the exit that provides access to the tourist information center. As a second alternative, the Tourist Information sign may be combined with General Service signing. Advance signage for points of interest and historical markers may also be utilized as conditions permit.

Figure 2I-7. Examples of Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs

D5-7 D5-8 D5-11

Note: Alternate legends may be substituted for the TOURIST INFO CENTER legend, such as WELCOME CENTER and (State Name) WELCOME CENTER.

Section 2I.09 Radio Information Signing

Option:

01 Radio-Weather Information (D12-1, D12-Y1a, D12-Y1b) signs (see Figure 2I-8) may be used in areas where difficult driving conditions commonly result from weather systems. Radio-Traffic Information signs may be used in conjunction with traffic management systems.

Standard:

02 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Only the numerical indication of the radio frequency shall be used to identify a station broadcasting travel-related weather or traffic information. No more than three frequencies shall be displayed on each sign. Only radio stations whose signal will be of value to the road user and who agree to broadcast either of the following two items shall be identified on Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs:**

A. Periodic weather warnings at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes during periods of adverse weather; or

B. Driving condition information (affecting the roadway being traveled) at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes, or when required, during periods of adverse traffic conditions, and when supplied by an official agency having jurisdiction.

Figure 2I-8. Radio, Telephone, and Carpool Information Signs

03 **If a station to be considered operates only on a seasonal basis, its signs shall be removed or covered during the off season.**

Guidance:

04 *The radio station should have a signal strength to adequately broadcast 70 miles along the route. Signs should be spaced as needed for each direction of travel at distances determined by an engineering study. The stations to be included on the signs should be selected in cooperation with the association(s) representing major broadcasting stations in the area to provide: (1) maximum coverage to all road users on both AM and FM frequencies; and (2) consideration of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week broadcast capability.*

Option:

05 In roadway rest area locations, a smaller sign using a greater number of radio frequencies, but of the same general design, may be used.

Standard:

06 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs installed in rest areas shall be positioned such that they are not visible from the main roadway.**

Option:

07 A Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be installed as needed. Official public agencies or their designees may be displayed as the monitoring agency on the sign.

Standard:

08 **Only official public agencies or their designee shall be displayed as the monitoring agency on the Channel 9 Monitored sign.**

Option:

09 An Emergency CALL XX (D12-4) sign (see Figure 2I-8), along with the appropriate number to call, may be used for cellular phone communications.

Section 2I.10 TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 Signs (D12-5 and D12-5a)

Option:

01 A TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 (D12-5) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be installed if a 511 travel information services telephone number is available to road users for obtaining traffic, public transportation, weather, construction, or road condition information.

02 The pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program that is providing the travel information may be incorporated within the D12-5 sign either above or below the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 legend.

Standard:

03 **The logo of a commercial entity shall not be incorporated within the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 sign.**

04 **The TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 sign shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

Guidance:

05 *If the pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program is used, the pictographs maximum height should not exceed two times the letter height used in the legend of the sign.*

Section 2I.11 Carpool and Ridesharing Signing

Option:

01 In areas having carpool matching services, Carpool Information (D12-2) signs (see Figure 2I-8) may be provided adjacent to highways with preferential lanes or along any other highway.

02 Carpool Information signs may include an Internet domain name or telephone number of more than four characters within the legend.

Guidance:

03 *Because this is an information sign related to road user services, the Carpool Information sign should have a white legend and border on a blue background.*

Standard:

04 **If a local transit pictograph or carpool symbol is incorporated into the Carpool Information sign, the maximum vertical dimension of the logo or symbol shall not exceed 18 inches.**

Section 2I.12 Travel Time Signs

Support:

01. Travel time signs inform motorists of current travel times to major interchanges. Travel time signs are intended for urban areas as part of an intelligent transportation system to reduce vehicle delays during peak hour periods. An example travel time sign is shown in Figure 2I-9.

Figure 2I-9. Travel Time Sign Example

D12-Y6

CHAPTER 2J. SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGNS

Section 2J.01 Eligibility

Standard:

01 **Specific Service signs shall be defined as guide signs that provide road users with business identification and directional information for services and for eligible attractions. Eligible service categories shall be limited to gas, food, lodging, camping, and attractions.~~, and 24-hour pharmacies~~.**

Guidance:

02 *The use of Specific Service signs should be limited to areas primarily rural in character or to areas where adequate sign spacing can be maintained.*

Option:

03 Where an engineering study determines a need, Specific Service signs may be used on any class of highways, if permitted by statute.

Guidance:

04 *Specific Service signs should not be installed at an interchange where the road user cannot conveniently reenter the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.*

Standard:

05 **Eligible service facilities shall comply with laws concerning the provisions of public accommodations without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, or national origin, and laws concerning the licensing and approval of service facilities.**

06 **The attraction services shall include only facilities which have the primary purpose of providing amusement, historical, cultural, or leisure activities to the public.**

Guidance:

07 *Distances to eligible services should not exceed 3 miles in any direction. Distances to camping and attractions should not exceed 15 miles in either direction. Distances to lodging facilities should not exceed 4 miles in either direction.*

Guidance:

08 *If State or local agencies elect to provide Specific Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:*

A. To qualify for a GAS logo sign panel, a business should have:
   1. Vehicle services including gas and/or alternative fuels, oil, and water;
   2. Continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week for freeways and expressways, and continuous operation at least 12 hours per day, 7 days per week for conventional roads;
   3. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water; and
   4. Public telephone.

B. To qualify for a FOOD logo sign panel, a business should have:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Continuous operations to serve at least two meals per day, at least 6 days per week;
   3. Modern sanitary facilities; and
   4. Public telephone.

C. To qualify for a LODGING logo sign panel, a business should have:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Adequate sleeping accommodations;
   3. Modern sanitary facilities; and
   4. Public telephone.

D. To qualify for a CAMPING logo sign panel, a business should have:
   1. Licensing or approval, where required;
   2. Adequate parking accommodations; and
   3. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.

E. To qualify for an ATTRACTION logo sign panel, a facility should have:
   1. Regional significance, in compliance with the provisions of Paragraph 6; and
   2. Adequate parking accommodations.

Support:

09 Section 2I.04 contains information regarding the Interstate Oasis program.

Section 2J.02 Application

Standard:

01 **The number of Specific Service signs along an approach to an interchange or intersection, regardless of the number of service types displayed, shall be limited to a maximum of four. In the direction of traffic, successive Specific Service signs shall be for ~~24 hour pharmacy,~~ attraction, camping, lodging, food, and gas services, in that order.**

02 **A Specific Service sign shall display the word message GAS, FOOD, LODGING, CAMPING, or ATTRACTION, ~~or 24 HOUR PHARMACY~~, an appropriate directional legend such as the word message EXIT XX, NEXT RIGHT, SECOND RIGHT, or directional arrows, and the related logo sign panels.**

03 **No more than three types of services shall be represented on any sign or sign assembly. If three types of services are displayed on one sign, then the logo sign panels shall be limited to two for each service type (for a total of six logo sign panels). If two types of services are displayed on one sign, then the logo sign panels shall be limited to either three for each service type (for a total of six logo sign panels) or four for one service type and two for the other service type (for a total of six logo sign panels). The legend and logo sign panels applicable to a service type shall be displayed such that the road user will not associate them with another service type on the same sign.**

04 **No service type shall appear on more than two signs (see Paragraph 6).**

05 **The signs shall have a blue background, a white border, and white legends of upper-case letters, numbers, and arrows.**

Guidance:

06 *Where a service type is displayed on two signs, the signs for that service should follow one another in succession.*

07 *The Specific Service signs should be located to take advantage of natural terrain, to have the least impact on the scenic environment, and to avoid visual conflict with other signs within the highway right-of-way.*

Option:

08 General Service signs (see Sections 2I.02 and 2I.03) may be used in conjunction with Specific Service signs for eligible types of services that are not represented by a Specific Service sign.

Support:

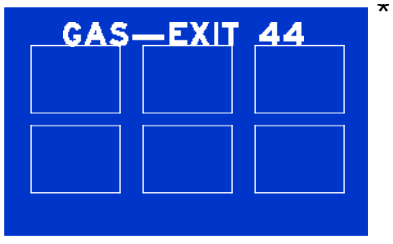
09 Examples of Specific Service signs are shown in Figure 2J-1. Examples of sign locations are shown in Figure 2J-2.

Section 2J.03 Logos and Logo Sign Panels

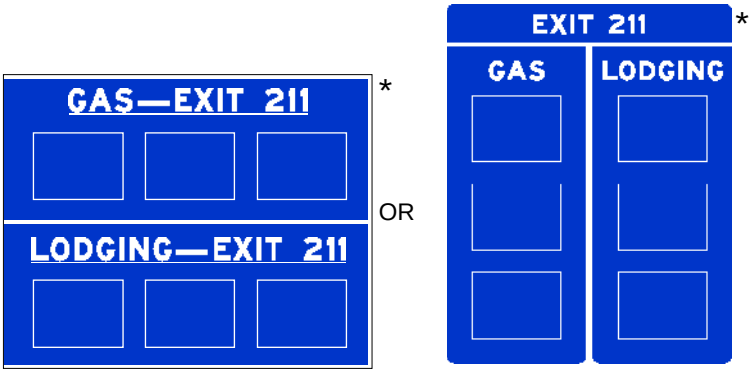
Standard:

01 **A logo shall be either an identification symbol/trademark or a word message. Each logo shall be placed on a separate logo sign panel that shall be attached to the Specific Service sign. Symbols or trademarks used alone for a logo shall be reproduced in the colors and general shape consistent with customary use, and any integral legend shall be in proportionate size. A logo that resembles an official traffic control device shall not be used.**

Figure 2J-1. Examples of Specific Service Signs

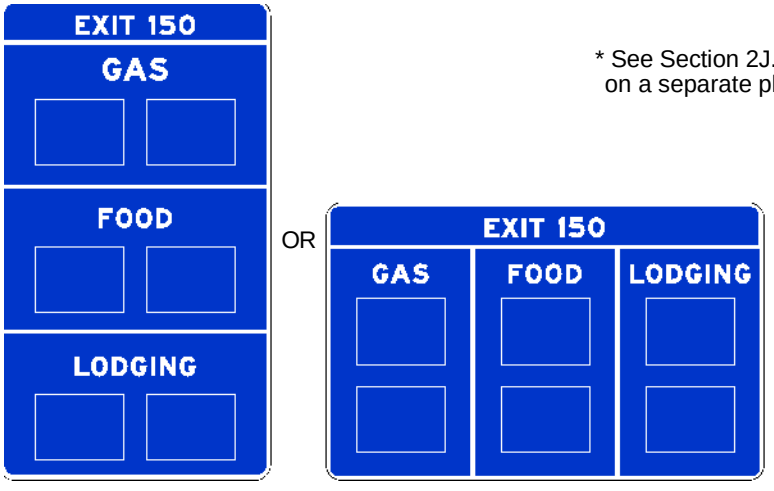


SINGLE-EXIT INTERCHANGE
(ONE SERVICE)



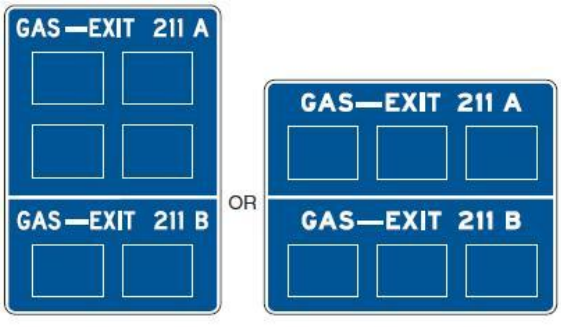
SINGLE-EXIT INTERCHANGE
(TWO SERVICES)

* See Section 2J.07 for option of displaying exit number on a separate plaque instead of on the sign

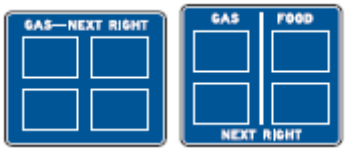


SINGLE-EXIT INTERCHANGE (THREE SERVICES)

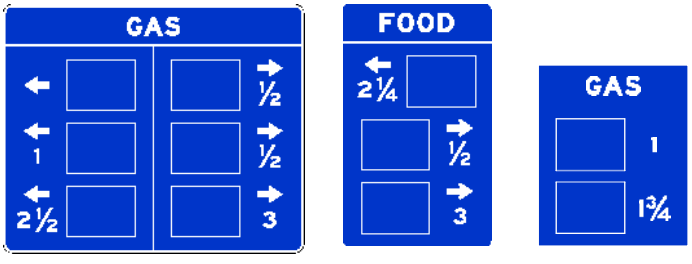
LOGO SIGN PANEL



DOUBLE-EXIT INTERCHANGE

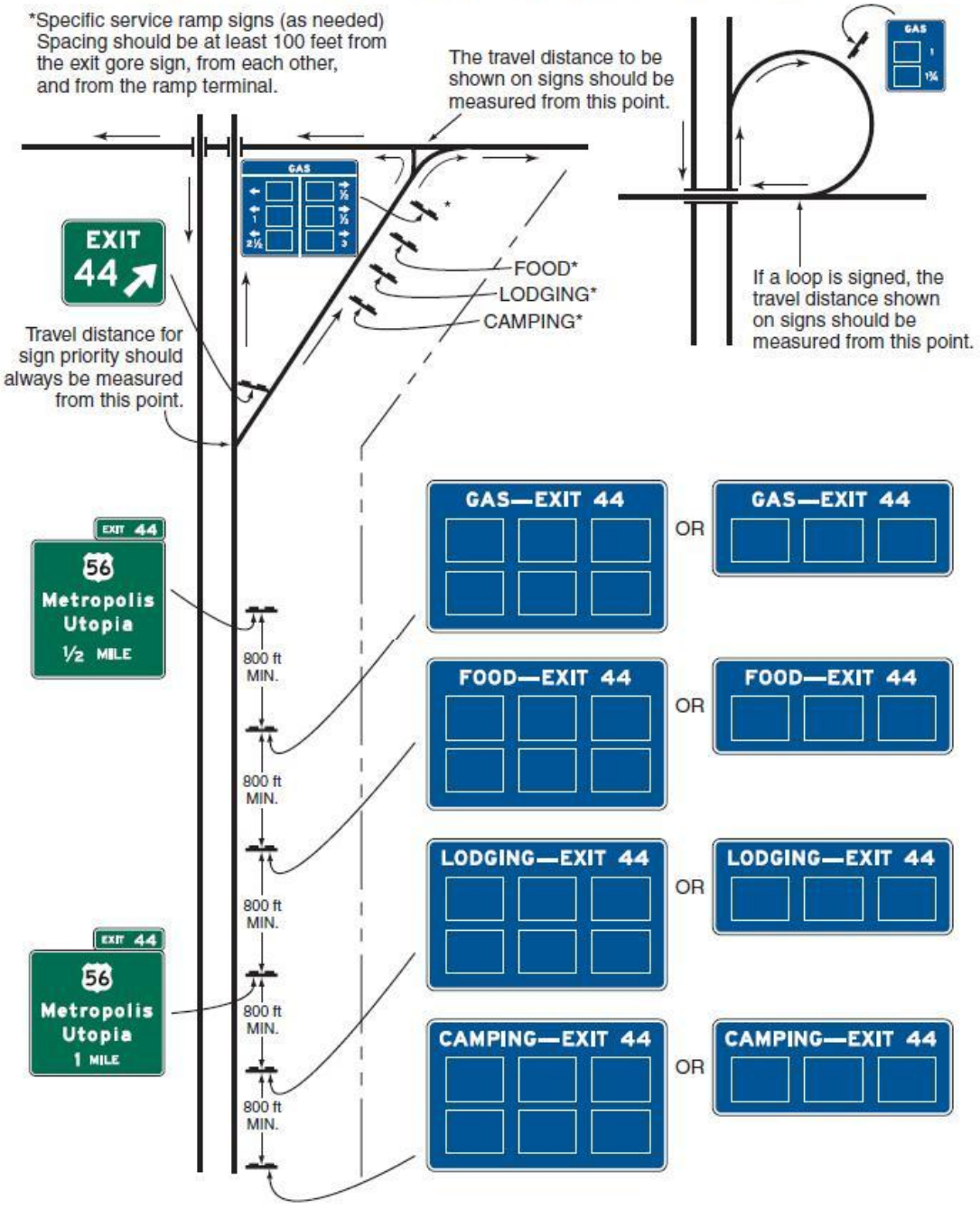


INTERSECTION
Note: Directional arrows or distance may be used when appropriate



RAMP

Figure 2J-2. Examples of Specific Service Sign Locations



Guidance:

02 *A word message logo, not using a symbol or trademark, should have a blue background with white legend and border.*

Support:

03 Section 2J.05 contains information regarding the minimum letter heights for logo sign panels.

Option:

04 Where business identification symbols or trademarks are used alone for a logo, the border may be omitted from the logo sign panel.

05 A portion of a logo sign panel may be used to display a supplemental message horizontally along the bottom of the logo sign panel, provided that the message displays essential motorist information (see Figure 2J-3).

Standard:

06 **All supplemental messages shall be displayed within the logo sign panel and shall have letters and numerals that comply with the minimum height requirements shown in Table 2J-1.**

Guidance:

07 *A logo sign panel should not display more than one supplemental message.*

08 *The supplemental message should be displayed in a color to contrast effectively with the background of the business sign or separated from the other legend or logo by a divider bar.*

09 *State or local agencies that elect to allow supplemental messages on logo sign panels should develop a statewide policy for such messages.*

Support:

10 Typical supplemental messages might include DIESEL, 24 HOURS, CLOSED and the day of the week when the facility is closed, ALTERNATIVE FUELS (see Section 2I.03), and RV ACCESS.

Option:

11 The RV ACCESS supplemental message may be circular.

Standard:

12 **If the RV ACCESS supplemental message is circular, it shall be the abbreviation RV in black letters inside a yellow circle with a black border and it shall be displayed within the logo sign panel near the lower right-hand corner (see Figure 2J-4).**

Guidance:

13 *If the circular RV ACCESS supplemental message is used, the circle should have a diameter of 10 inches and the letters should have a height of 6 inches.*

14 *If a State or local agency elects to display the designation of businesses as providing on-premise accommodations for recreational vehicles with the RV ACCESS supplemental message or the RV Access circular message, there should be a statewide policy for such designation and criteria for qualifying businesses. The criteria should include such site conditions as access between the public roadway and the site, on-premise geometry, and parking.*

Option:

15 If a business designated as an Interstate Oasis (see Section 2I.04) has a business logo sign panel on the Food and/or Gas Specific Service signs, the word OASIS may be displayed on the bottom portion of the logo sign panel for that business.

Standard:

16 **A logo sign panel shall not display the symbol/trademark or name of more than one business.**

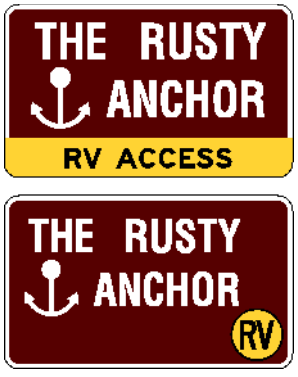
Figure 2J-3. Examples of Supplemental Messages on Logo Sign Panels

Table 2J-1. Minimum Letter and Numeral Sizes for Specific Service Signs According to Sign Type

Type of Sign	Freeway or Expressway	Conventional Road or Ramp
A. Specific Service Signs		
Service Categories	10	6
Exit Number Words	10	—
Exit Number Numerals and Letters	10	—
Action Message Words	10	6
Distance Numerals	—	6
Distance Fraction Numerals	—	4
B. Logo Sign Panels		
Logo Sign Panels	60 x 36	30 x 18
Words and Numerals (Non-Trademark/Graphic Logo)	8	4
Trademark/Graphic Logo	Proportional	Proportional
Supplemental Message Words and Numerals	5	2.5

Note: Sizes are shown in inches and where applicable are shown as width x height

Figure 2J-4. Examples of RV Access Supplemental Messages on Logo Sign Panels



Section 2J.04 Number and Size of Signs and Logo Sign Panels

Guidance:

01 *Sign sizes should be determined by the amount and height of legend and the number and size of logo sign panels attached to the sign. All logo sign panels on a sign should be the same size.*

Standard:

02 **Each Specific Service sign or sign assembly shall be limited to no more than six logo sign panels.**

Option:

03 Where more than six businesses of a specific service type are eligible for logo sign panels at the same interchange, additional logo sign panels of that same specific service type may also be displayed in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4. The additional logo sign panels may be displayed either by placing more than one specific service type on the same sign (see Paragraph 3 of Section 2J.02) or by using a second Specific Service sign of that specific service type if the additional sign can be added without exceeding the limit of four Specific Service signs at an interchange or intersection approach (see Paragraph 6 of Section 2J.02).

Standard:

04 **Where logo sign panels for more than six businesses of a specific service type are displayed at the same interchange or intersection approach, the following provisions shall apply:**

A. No more than 12 logo sign panels of a specific service type shall be displayed on no more than two Specific Service signs or sign assemblies;

B. No more than six logo sign panels shall be displayed on a single Specific Service sign; and

C. No more than four Specific Service signs shall be displayed on the approach.

Support:

05 Section 2J.08 contains information regarding Specific Service signs for double-exit interchanges.

Standard:

06 **Each logo sign panel attached to a Specific Service sign shall have a rectangular shape with a width longer than the height. A logo sign panel on signs for freeways and expressways shall not exceed 60 inches in width and 36 inches in height. A logo sign panel on signs for conventional roads and freeway and expressway ramps shall not exceed 30 inches in width and 18 inches in height. The vertical and horizontal spacing between logo sign panels shall not exceed 8 inches and 12 inches, respectively.**

Support:

07 Sections 2A.14, 2E.15, and 2E.16 contain information regarding borders, interline spacing, and edge spacing.

Section 2J.05 Size of Lettering

Standard:

01 **All Specific Service signs and logo sign panels shall have letter and numeral sizes that comply with the minimum requirements of Table 2J-1.**

Guidance:

02 *Any legend on a symbol/trademark should be proportional to the size of the symbol/trademark.*

Section 2J.06 Signs at Interchanges

Standard:

01 **The Specific Service signs shall be installed between the preceding interchange and at least 800 feet in advance of the Exit Half (1/2) Mile Advance Guide sign at the interchange from which the services are available (see Figure 2J-2).**

Guidance:

02 *When spacing permits, all Specific Service signs should be installed before the Exit One (1) Mile Advance Guide sign. There should be at least an 800-foot spacing between the Specific Service signs, except for Specific Service ramp signs. However, excessive spacing is not desirable. Specific Service ramp signs should be spaced at least 100 feet from the Exit Gore sign, from each other, and from the ramp terminal.*

Section 2J.07 Single-Exit Interchanges

Standard:

01 **At numbered single-exit interchanges, the name of the service type followed by the exit number shall be displayed on one line above the logo sign panels. At unnumbered interchanges, the directional legend NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) shall be used.**

02 **At single-exit interchanges, Specific Service ramp signs shall be installed along the ramp or at the ramp terminal for facilities that have logo sign panels displayed along the main roadway if the facilities are not readily visible from the ramp terminal. Directions to the service facilities shall be indicated by arrows on the ramp signs. Logo sign panels on Specific Service ramp signs shall be duplicates of those displayed on the Specific**

Service signs located in advance of the interchange, but shall be reduced in size (see Paragraph 6 of Section 2J.04).

Guidance:

03 *Specific Service ramp signs should include distances to the service facilities, if the distance is 1 mile or greater.*

Option:

04 An exit number plaque (see Section 2E.31) may be used instead of the exit number on the signs located in advance of an interchange.

Section 2J.08 Double-Exit Interchanges

Guidance:

01 *At double-exit interchanges, the Specific Service signs should consist of two sections, one for each exit (see Figure 2J-1).*

Standard:

02 **At a double-exit interchange, the top section shall display the logo sign panels for the first exit and the bottom section shall display the logo sign panels for the second exit. At numbered interchanges, the name of the service type and the exit number shall be displayed above the logo sign panels in each section. At unnumbered interchanges, the word message NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) and SECOND RIGHT (LEFT) shall be used in place of the exit number. The number of logo sign panels on the sign (total of both sections) or the sign assembly shall be limited to six.**

Guidance:

03 *At a double-exit interchange, where a service type is displayed on two Specific Service signs in accordance with the provisions of Section 2J.04, one of the signs should display the logo sign panels for that service type for the businesses that are accessible from one of the two exits and the other sign should display the logo sign panels for that service type for the businesses that are accessible from the other exit.*

Option:

04 At a double-exit interchange where there are four logo sign panels to be displayed for one of the exits and one or two logo sign panels to be displayed for the other exit, the logo sign panels may be arranged in three rows with two logo sign panels per row.

05 At a double-exit interchange, where a service is to be signed for only one exit, one section of the Specific Service sign may be omitted, or a single exit interchange sign may be used. Signs on ramps and crossroads as described in Section 2J.07 may be used at a double-exit interchange.

Section 2J.09 Specific Service Trailblazer Signs

Support:

01 Specific Service trailblazer signs (see Figure 2J-5) are guide signs with one to four logo sign panels that display business identification and directional information for services and for eligible attractions. Specific Service trailblazer signs are installed along crossroads for facilities that have logo sign panels displayed along the main roadway and ramp, and that require additional vehicle maneuvers.

Standard:

02 **Specific Service trailblazer signs shall be installed along crossroads where the route to the business requires a direction change, where it is questionable as to which roadway to follow, or where additional guidance is needed. Where it is not feasible or practical to install Specific Service trailblazer signs to such businesses, those businesses shall not be considered eligible for signing from the ramp and main roadway. A Specific Service trailblazer sign shall not be required at the point where the business is visible from the roadway and its access is readily apparent.**

Guidance:

03 *If used, a Specific Service trailblazer sign should be located a maximum of 500 feet in advance of any required turn.*

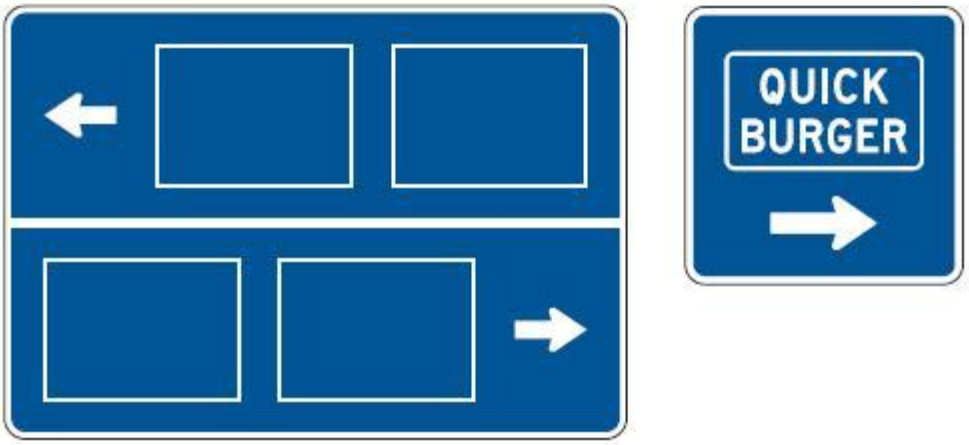
Standard:

04 **The location of other traffic control devices shall take precedence over the location of a Specific Service trailblazer sign.**

05 **When used, each Specific Service trailblazer sign or sign assembly shall be limited to no more than four logo sign panels. The logo sign panels on Specific Service trailblazer signs shall be duplicates of those displayed on the Specific Service ramp signs.**

06 **Appropriate legends, such as directional arrows or the word message NEXT RIGHT or SECOND RIGHT, shall be displayed with the logo sign panel to provide proper guidance. The directional legend and border shall be white and shall be displayed on a blue background.**

Figure 2J-5. Examples of Specific Service Trailblazer Signs



Option:

07 Specific Service trailblazer signs may contain various types of services on a single sign or on a sign assembly.

08 Specific Service trailblazer signs may be placed farther from the edge of the road than other traffic control signs.

Section 2J.10 Signs at Intersections

Standard:

01 **Where both tourist-oriented information (see Chapter 2K) and specific service information would be needed at the same intersection, the design of the tourist-oriented directional signs shall be used, and the needed specific service information shall be incorporated.**

Guidance:

02 *If Specific Service signs are used on conventional roads or at intersections on expressways, they should be installed between the previous interchange or intersection and at least 300 feet in advance of the intersection from which the services are available.*

03 *The spacing between signs should be determined on the basis of an engineering study.*

04 *Logo sign panels should not be displayed for a type of service for which a qualified facility is readily visible.*

Standard:

05 **If Specific Service signs are used on conventional roads or at intersections on expressways, the name of each type of service shall be displayed above its logo sign panel(s), together with an appropriate legend, such as NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) or a directional arrow, either displayed on the same line as the name of the type of service or displayed below the logo sign panel(s).**

Option:

06 Signs similar to Specific Service ramp signs as described in Section 2J.07 may be provided on the crossroad.

Section 2J.11 Signing Policy

Guidance:

01 *Each highway agency that elects to use Specific Service signs should establish a signing policy that includes, as a minimum, the guidelines of Section 2J.01 and at least the following criteria:*

A. Selection of eligible businesses;
B. Distances to eligible services;
C. The use of logo sign panels, legends, and signs conforming with this Manual and State design requirements;
D. Removal or covering of logo sign panels during off seasons for businesses that operate on a seasonal basis;
E. The circumstances, if any, under which Specific Service signs are permitted to be used in non-rural areas; and
F. Determination of the costs to businesses for initial permits, installations, annual maintenance, and removal of logo sign panels.

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CHAPTER 2K. TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Section 2K.01 Purpose and Application

Support:

01 Tourist-oriented directional signs are guide signs with one or more sign panels that display the business identification of and directional information for eligible business, service, and activity facilities.

Standard:

02 **A facility shall be eligible for tourist-oriented directional signs only if it derives its major portion of income or visitors during the normal business season from road users not residing in the area of the facility.**

Option:

03 Tourist-oriented directional signs may include businesses involved with seasonal agricultural products.

Standard:

04 **When used, tourist-oriented directional signs shall be used only on rural conventional roads and shall not be used on conventional roads in urban areas or at interchanges on freeways or expressways.**

05 **Where both tourist-oriented directional signs and Specific Service signs (see Chapter 2J) would be needed at the same intersection, the tourist-oriented directional signs shall incorporate the needed information from, and be used in place of, the Specific Service signs.**

Option:

06 Tourist-oriented directional signs may be used in conjunction with General Service signs (see Section 2I.02).

Support:

07 Section 2K.07 contains information on the adoption of a State policy for States that elect to use tourist-oriented directional signs.

Section 2K.02 Design

Standard:

01 **Tourist-oriented directional signs shall have one or more sign panels for the purpose of displaying the business identification of and directional information for eligible facilities. Each sign panel shall be rectangular in shape and shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

02 **The content of the legend on each sign panel shall be limited to the identification and directional information for no more than one eligible business, service, or activity facility. The legends shall not include promotional advertising.**

Guidance:

03 *Each sign panel should have a maximum of two lines of legend including no more than one symbol, a separate directional arrow, and the distance to the facility displayed beneath the arrow. Arrows pointing to the left or up should be at the extreme left of the sign panel. Arrows pointing to the right should be at the extreme right of the sign panel. Symbols, when used, should be to the left of the word legend or logo sign panel (see Paragraph 7).*

Option:

04 The General Service sign symbols (see Section 2I.02) and the symbols for recreational and cultural interest area signs (see Chapter 2M) may be used.

05 Logo sign panels (see Section 2J.03) for specific businesses, services, and activities may also be used. Based on engineering judgment, the hours of operation may be displayed on the sign panels.

Standard:

06 **When used, symbols and logo sign panels shall be an appropriate size (see Section 2K.04). Logos resembling official traffic control devices shall not be permitted.**

Option:

07 The tourist-oriented directional sign may display the word message TOURIST ACTIVITIES at the top of the sign.

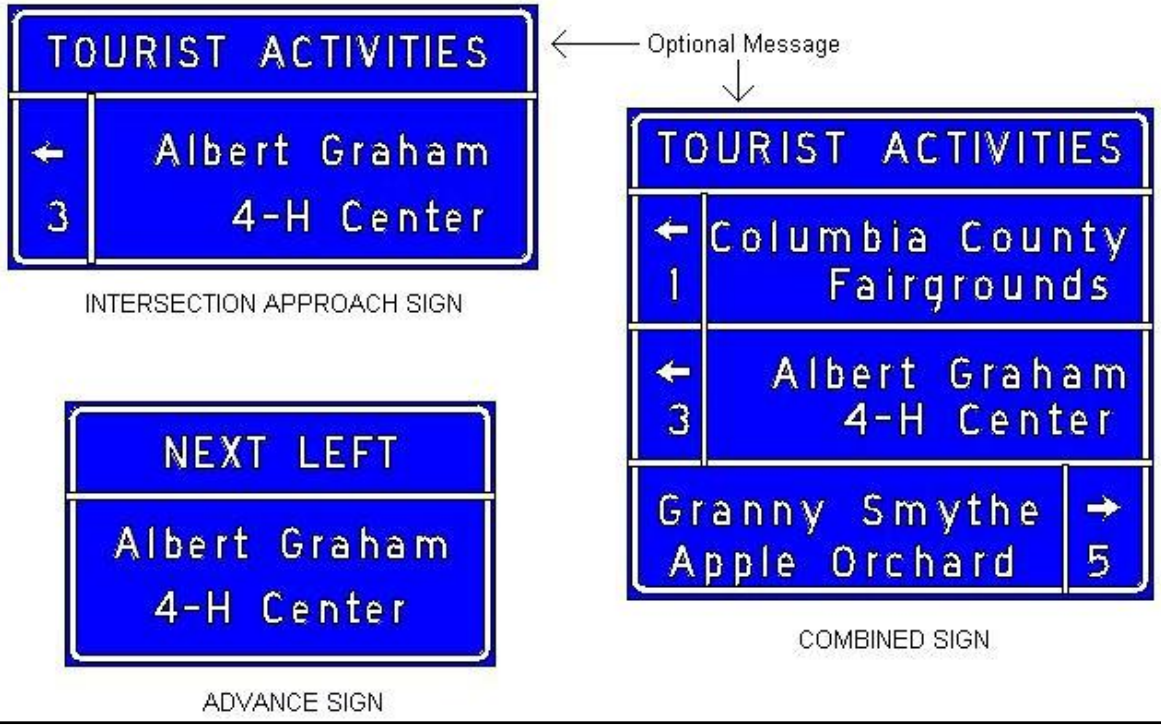
Standard:

08 **The TOURIST ACTIVITIES word message shall have a white legend in all upper-case letters and a white border on a blue background. If used, it shall be placed above and in addition to the directional sign panels.**

Support:

09 Examples of tourist-oriented directional signs are shown in Figures 2K-1 and 2K-2.

Figure 2K-1. Examples of Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs



Section 2K.03 Style and Size of Lettering

Guidance:

01 *All letters and numbers on tourist-oriented directional signs, except on the logo sign panels, should be a combination of 6 inches in height for upper-case and 4.5 inches in height for lower-case letters, as shown in Figure 2K-1. Any legend on a logo should be proportional to the size of the logo.*

Standard:

02 **Design standards for letters, numerals, and spacing shall be as provided in the Standard Highway Signs and Markings book (see Section 1A.11).**

Section 2K.04 Arrangement and Size of Signs

Standard:

01 **The size of a tourist-oriented directional sign shall be limited to a maximum height of 6 feet. Additional height shall be allowed to accommodate the addition of the optional TOURIST ACTIVITIES message provided in Section 2K.02 and the action messages provided in Section 2K.05.**

Guidance:

02 *The number of intersection approach signs (one sign for tourist-oriented destinations to the left, one for destinations to the right, and one for destinations straight ahead) installed in advance of an intersection should not exceed two. The number of sign panels installed on each sign should not exceed three. The sign panels for right-turn, left-turn, and straight-through destinations should be on separate signs. The left-turn destination sign should be located farthest from the intersection, then the right-turn destination sign, with the straight-through destination sign located closest to the intersection (see Figure 2K-2). Signs for facilities in the straight-through direction should be considered only when there are signs for destinations in either the left or right direction.*

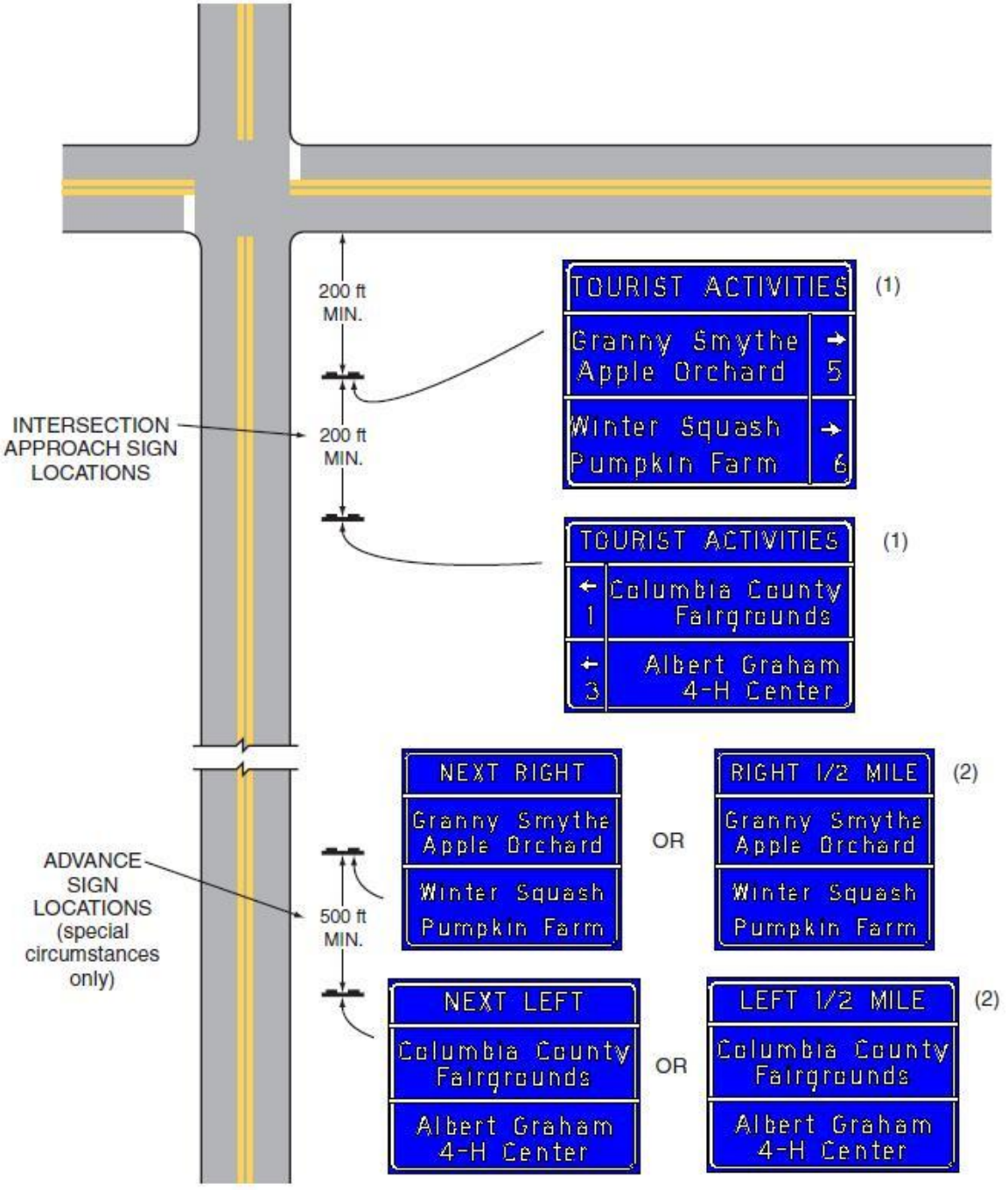
03 *If it has been determined to be appropriate to combine the left-turn and right-turn destination sign panels on a single sign, the left-turn destination sign panels should be above the right-turn destination sign panels (see Figure 2K-1). When there are multiple destinations in the same direction, they should be in order based on their distance from the intersection. Except as provided in Paragraph 5, a straight-through sign panel should not be combined with a sign displaying left- and/or right-turn destinations.*

04 *The sign panels should not exceed the size necessary to accommodate two lines of legend without crowding. Symbols and logo sign panels on a directional sign panel should not exceed the height of two lines of a word legend. All directional sign panels and other parts of the sign should be the same width, which should not exceed 6 feet.*

Option:

05 At intersection approaches where three or fewer facilities are displayed, the left-turn, right-turn, and straight-through destination sign panels may be combined on the same sign.

Figure 2K-2. Examples of Intersection Approach Signs and Advance Signs for Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs



(1) Optional message
(2) Use if there is an intervening intersection

Section 2K.05 Advance Signs

Guidance:

01 *Advance signs should be limited to those situations where sight distance, intersection vehicle maneuvers, or other vehicle operating characteristics require advance notification of the destinations and their directions.*

02 *The design of the advance sign should be identical to the design of the intersection approach sign. However, the directional arrows and distances to the destinations should be omitted and the action messages NEXT RIGHT, NEXT LEFT, or AHEAD should be placed on the sign above the business identification sign panels. The action messages should have the same letter height as the other word messages on the directional sign panels (see Figures 2K-1 and 2K-2).*

Standard:

03 **The action message sign panels shall have a white legend in all upper-case letters and a white border on a blue background.**

Option:

04 The legend RIGHT 1/2 MILE or LEFT 1/2 MILE may be used on advance signs when there are intervening minor roads.

05 The height required to add the directional word messages recommended for the advance sign may be added to the maximum sign height of 6 feet.

Guidance:

06 *The optional TOURIST ACTIVITIES message, when used on an advance sign, and the action message should be combined on a single sign panel with TOURIST ACTIVITIES as the top line and the action message as the bottom line (see Figure 2K-2).*

Section 2K.06 Sign Locations

Guidance:

01 *If used, the intersection approach signs should be located at least 200 feet in advance of the intersection. Signs should be spaced at least 200 feet apart and at least 200 feet from other traffic control devices.*

02 *If used, advance signs should be located approximately 1/2 mile from the intersection with 500 feet between these signs. In the direction of travel, the order of advance sign placement should be to show the destinations to the left first, then destinations to the right, and last, the destinations straight ahead.*

03 *Position, height, and lateral offset of signs should be governed by Chapter 2A except as permitted in this Section.*

Option:

04 Tourist-oriented directional signs may be placed farther from the edge of the road than other traffic control signs.

Standard:

05 **The location of other traffic control devices shall take precedence over the location of tourist-oriented directional signs.**

Section 2K.07 State Policy

Standard:

01 **To be eligible for tourist-oriented directional signing, facilities shall comply with applicable State and Federal laws concerning the provisions of public accommodations without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, or national origin, and with laws concerning the licensing and approval of service facilities. Each State that elects to use tourist-oriented directional signs shall adopt a policy that complies with these provisions.**

Guidance:

02 *The State policy should include:*

A. *A definition of tourist-oriented business, service, and activity facilities.*
B. *Eligibility criteria for signs for facilities.*
C. *Provision for incorporating Specific Service signs into the tourist-oriented directional signs as required by Paragraph 5 of Section 2K.01.*
D. *Provision for covering signs during off seasons for facilities operated on a seasonal basis.*
E. *Provisions for signs to facilities that are not located on the crossroad when such facilities are eligible for signs.*
F. *A definition of the immediate area in compliance with the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Section 2K.01.*
G. *Maximum distances to eligible facilities. The maximum distance should be 5 miles.*
H. *Provision for information centers (plazas) when the number of eligible sign applicants exceeds the maximum permissible number of sign panel installations.*
I. *Provision for limiting the number of signs when there are more applicants than the maximum number of signs permitted.*
J. *Criteria for use at intersections on expressways.*
K. *Provisions for controlling or excluding those businesses which have illegal signs as defined by the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 U.S.C. 131).*
L. *Provisions for States to charge fees to cover the cost of signs through a permit system.*
M. *A definition of the conditions under which the time of operation is displayed.*
N. *Provisions for determining if advance signs will be permitted, and the circumstances under which they will be installed.*

CHAPTER 2L. CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Section 2L.01 Description of Changeable Message Signs

Support:

01 A changeable message sign (CMS) is a traffic control device that is capable of displaying one or more alternative messages. Some changeable message signs have a blank mode when no message is displayed, while others display multiple messages with only one of the messages displayed at a time (such as OPEN/CLOSED signs at weigh stations).

02 The provisions in this Chapter apply to both permanent and portable changeable message signs with electronic displays. Additional provisions that only apply to portable changeable message signs can be found in Section 6F.60. The provisions in this Chapter do not apply to changeable message signs with non-electronic displays that are changed either manually or electromechanically, such as a hinged-panel, rotating-drum, or back-lit curtain or scroll CMS.

Standard:

03 **Except as provided in Paragraph 2 of Section 2L.02, changeable message signs shall display only traffic operational, regulatory, warning, and guidance information. Advertising messages shall not be displayed on changeable message signs or its supports or other equipment.**

04 **The design of legends for non-electronic display changeable message signs shall comply with the provisions of Chapters 2A through 2K, 2M, and 2N of this Manual. All other changeable message signs shall comply with the design and application principles established in this Chapter and in Chapter 2A.**

Guidance:

05 *Blank-out signs that display only single-phase, predetermined electronic-display legends that are limited by their composition and arrangement of pixels or other illuminated forms in a fixed arrangement (such as a blank-out sign indicating a part-time turn prohibition, a blank-out or changeable lane-use sign, or a changeable OPEN/CLOSED sign for a weigh station) should comply with the provisions of the applicable Section for the specific type of sign, provided that the letter forms, symbols, and other legend elements are duplicates of the static messages as detailed in the Standard Highway Signs and Markings book (see Section 1A.11). Because such a sign is effectively an illuminated version of a static sign, the size of its legend elements, the overall size of the sign, and placement of the sign should comply with the applicable provisions for the static version of the sign.*

Standard:

06 **No message or part of the message shall be visible when the blank out sign is not activated.**

Section 2L.02 Applications of Changeable Message Signs

Support:

01 Changeable message signs have a large number of applications including, but not limited to, the following:

A. Incident management and route diversion
B. Warning of adverse weather conditions
C. Special event applications associated with traffic control or conditions
D. Control at crossing situations
E. Lane, ramp, and roadway control
F. Priced or other types of managed lanes
G. Travel times
H. Warning situations
I. Traffic regulations
J. Speed control
K. Destination guidance

Option:

02 Changeable message signs may be used by State and local highway agencies to display safety messages, transportation-related messages, emergency homeland security messages, and Americas Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) alert messages.

Guidance:

03 *State and local highway agencies should develop and establish a policy regarding the display of the types of messages provided in Paragraph 2. When changeable message signs are used at multiple locations to address a specific situation, the message displays should be consistent along the roadway corridor and adjacent corridors, which might necessitate coordination among different operating agencies.*

Support:

04 Examples of safety messages include SEAT BELT BUCKLED? and DON T DRINK AND DRIVE. Examples of transportation-related messages include STADIUM EVENT SUNDAY, EXPECT DELAYS NOON TO 4 PM and OZONE ALERT CODE RED USE TRANSIT.

Guidance:

05 *When a CMS is used to display a safety or transportation related message, the message should be simple, brief, legible, and clear. A CMS should not be used to display a safety or transportation-related message if doing so would adversely affect respect for the sign. CONGESTION AHEAD or other overly simplistic or vague messages should not be displayed alone. These messages should be supplemented with a message on the location or distance to the congestion or incident, delay and travel time, alternative route, or other similar messages.*

Standard:

06 **When a CMS is used to display a safety, transportation-related, emergency homeland security, or AMBER alert message, the display format shall not be of a type that could be considered similar to advertising displays.**

Support:

07 Section 2B.13 contains information regarding the design of changeable message signs that are used to display variable speed limits that change based on ambient or operational conditions, or that display the speed at which approaching drivers are traveling.

Section 2L.03 Legibility and Visibility of Changeable Message Signs

Support:

01 The maximum distance at which a driver can first correctly identify letters and words on a sign is called the legibility distance of the sign. Legibility distance is affected by the characteristics of the sign design and the visual capabilities of drivers. Visual capabilities, and thus legibility distances, vary among drivers.

02 For the more common types of changeable message signs, the longest measured legibility distances on sunny days occur during mid-day when the sun is overhead. Legibility distances are much shorter when the sun is behind the sign face, when the sun is on the horizon and shining on the sign face, or at night.

03 Visibility is the characteristic that enables a CMS to be seen. Visibility is associated with the point where the CMS is first detected, whereas legibility is the point where the message on the CMS can be read. Environmental conditions such as rain, fog, and snow impact the visibility of changeable message signs and can reduce the available legibility distances. During these conditions, there might not be enough viewing time for drivers to read the message.

Guidance:

04 *Changeable message signs used on roadways with speed limits of 55 mph or higher should be visible from 1/2 mile under both day and night conditions. The message should be designed to be legible from a minimum distance of 600 feet for nighttime conditions and 800 feet for normal daylight conditions. When environmental conditions that reduce visibility and legibility are present, or when the legibility distances stated in the previous sentences in this paragraph cannot be practically achieved, messages composed of fewer units of information should be used and consideration should be given to limiting the message to a single phase (see Section 2L.05 for information regarding the lengths of messages displayed on changeable message signs).*

Section 2L.04 Design Characteristics of Changeable Message Signs

Standard:

01 **Changeable message signs shall not include advertising, animation, rapid flashing, dissolving, exploding, scrolling, or other dynamic elements.**

Support:

02 Section 6F.61 contains information regarding the use of arrow boards that use flashing or sequential displays for lane closures.

Guidance:

03 *Except in the case of a limited-legend CMS (such as a blank-out or electronic-display changeable message regulatory sign) that is used in place of a static regulatory sign or an activated blank-out warning sign that supplements a static warning sign at a separate location, changeable message signs should be used as a supplement to and not as a substitute for conventional signs and markings.*

04 *CMS should be limited to no more than three lines, with no more than 20 characters per line.*

05 *The spacing between characters in a word should be between 25 to 40 percent of the letter height. The spacing between words in a message should be between 75 and 100 percent of the letter height. Spacing between the message lines should be between 50 and 75 percent of the letter height.*

06 *Except as provided in Paragraph 18, word messages on changeable message signs should be composed of all upper-case letters. The minimum letter height should be 18 inches for changeable message signs on roadways with speed limits of 45 mph or higher. The minimum letter height should be 12 inches for changeable message signs on roadways with speed limits of less than 45 mph.*

Support:

07 Using letter heights of more than 18 inches will not result in proportional increases in legibility distance.

Guidance:

08 *The width-to-height ratio of the sign characters should be between 0.7 and 1.0. The stroke width-to-height ratio should be 0.2.*

Support:

09 The width-to-height ratio is commonly accomplished using a minimum font matrix density of five pixels wide by seven pixels high.

Standard:

10 **Changeable message signs shall automatically adjust their brightness under varying light conditions to maintain legibility.**

Guidance:

11 *The luminance of changeable message signs should meet industry criteria for daytime and nighttime conditions. Luminance contrast should be between 8 and 12 for all conditions.*

12 *Contrast orientation of changeable message signs should always be positive, that is, with luminous characters on a dark or less luminous background.*

Support:

13 Legibility distances for negative-contrast changeable message signs are likely to be at least 25 percent shorter than those of positive-contrast messages. In addition, the increased light emitted by negative-contrast changeable message signs has not been shown to improve detection distances.

Standard:

14 **The colors used for the legends and backgrounds on changeable message signs shall be as provided in Table 2A-5.**

Guidance:

15 *If a black background is used, the color used for the legend on a changeable message sign should match the background color that would be used on a standard sign for that type of legend, such as white for regulatory, yellow for warning, orange for temporary traffic control, red for stop or yield, fluorescent pink for incident management, and fluorescent yellow-green for bicycle, pedestrian, and school warning.*

Standard:

16 **If a green background is used for a guide message on a CMS or if a blue background is used for a motorist services message on a CMS, the background color shall be provided by green or blue lighted pixels such that the entire CMS would be lighted, not just the white legend.**

Support:

17 Some CMS that employ newer technologies have the capability to display an exact duplicate of a standard sign or other sign legend using standard symbols, the Standard Alphabets and letter forms, route shields, and other typical sign legend elements with no apparent loss of resolution or recognition to the road user when compared with a static version of the same sign legend. Such signs are of the full-matrix type and can typically display full-color legends. Use of such technologies for new CMS is encouraged for greater legibility of their displays and enhanced recognition of the message as it pertains to regulatory, warning, or guidance information.

Guidance:

18 *If used, the CMS described in the preceding paragraph should not display symbols or route shields unless they can do so in the appropriate color combinations. For a single-phase message where the Standard Alphabets and other legend elements of standard designs are used, the lettering style, size, and line spacing should comply with the applicable provisions for the type of message displayed as provided elsewhere in this Manual. For two-phase messages, larger legend heights should be used as described previously in this Section because of the need for such messages to be legible at a greater distance. Regardless of the number of phases, the CMS should comply with the legibility and visibility provisions of Section 2L.03.*

Section 2L.05 Message Length and Units of Information

Guidance:

01 *The maximum length of a message should be dictated by the number of units of information contained in the message, in addition to the size of the CMS. A unit of information, which is a single answer to a single question that a driver can use to make a decision, should not be more than four words.*

Support:

02 In order to illustrate the concept of units of information, Table 2L-1 shows an example message that is comprised of four units of information.

03 The maximum allowable number of units of information in a CMS message is based on the principles described in this Section, the current highway operating speed, the legibility characteristics of the CMS, and the lighting conditions.

Standard:

04 **Each message shall consist of no more than two phases. A phase shall consist of no more than three lines of text. Each phase shall be understood by itself regardless of the sequence in which it is read. Messages shall be centered within each line of legend. Except for signs located on toll plaza structures or other facilities with a similar booth-lane arrangement, if more than one CMS is visible to road users, then only one sign shall display a sequential message at any given time.**

05 **Techniques of message display such as fading, rapid flashing, exploding, dissolving, or moving messages shall not be used. The text of the message shall not scroll or travel horizontally or vertically across the face of the sign.**

Guidance:

06 *When designing and displaying messages on changeable message signs, the following principles relative to message design should be used:*

A. The minimum time that an individual phase is displayed should be based on 1 second per word or 2 seconds per unit of information, whichever produces a lesser value. The display time for a phase should never be less than 2 seconds.

B. The maximum cycle time of a two-phase message should be 8 seconds.

C. The duration between the display of two phases should not exceed 0.3 seconds.

D. No more than three units of information should be displayed on a phase of a message.

E. No more than four units of information should be in a message when the traffic operating speeds are 35 mph or more.

F. No more than five units of information should be in a message when the traffic operating speeds are less than 35 mph.

G. Only one unit of information should appear on each line of the CMS.

H. Compatible units of information should be displayed on the same message phase.

Table 2L-1. Example of Units of Information

Question	Answer	Number of Information Units
What happened?	MAJOR CRASH	1
Where?	AT EXIT 12	1
Who is the advisory for?	Drivers Heading TO NEW YORK	1
What is advised?	USE ROUTE 46	1

Note: The following is an example of a two-phase message that could be developed from the four information units shown in this table:

MAJOR CRASH AT EXIT 12	USE ROUTE 46 TO NEW YORK
Phase 1	Phase 2

Option:

07 A unit of information consisting of more than one word may be displayed on more than one line. An additional changeable message sign at a downstream location may be used for the purpose of allowing the entire message to be read twice.

Guidance:

08 *If more than two phases would be needed to display the necessary information, additional changeable message signs should be used to display this information as a series of two distinct, independent messages with a maximum of two phases at each location, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4.*

09 *When the message on a CMS includes an abbreviation, the provisions of Section 1A .15 should be used.*

Section 2L.06 Installation of Permanent Changeable Message Signs

Guidance:

01 *A CMS that is used in place of a static sign (such as a blank-out or variable legend regulatory sign) should be located in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2A. The following factors should be considered when installing other permanent changeable message signs:*

A. Changeable message signs should be located sufficiently upstream of known bottlenecks and high crash locations to enable road users to select an alternate route or take other appropriate action in response to a recurring condition.

B. Changeable message signs should be located sufficiently upstream of major diversion decision points, such as interchanges, to provide adequate distance over which road users can change lanes to reach one destination or the other.

C. Changeable message signs should not be located within an interchange except for toll plazas or managed lanes.

D. Changeable message signs should not be positioned at locations where the information load on drivers is already high because of guide signs and other types of information.

E. Changeable message signs should not be located in areas where drivers frequently perform lane-changing maneuvers in response to static guide sign information, or because of merging or weaving conditions.

Support:

02 Information regarding the design and application of portable changeable message signs in temporary traffic control zones is contained in Section 6F.60.

CHAPTER 2M. RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS

Section 2M.01 Scope

Support:

01 Recreational or cultural interest areas are attractions or traffic generators that are open to the general public for the purpose of play, amusement, or relaxation. Recreational attractions include such facilities as parks, campgrounds, gaming facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

02 The purpose of recreation and cultural interest area signs is to guide road users to a general area and then to specific facilities or activities within the area.

Option:

03 Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs directing road users to significant traffic generators may be used on freeways and expressways where there is direct access to these areas as provided in Section 2M.09.

04 Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used off the road network, as appropriate.

Section 2M.02 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

Support:

01 Provisions for signing recreational or cultural interest areas are subdivided into two different types of signs: (1) symbol signs and (2) destination guide signs.

Guidance:

02 *When highway agencies decide to provide recreational and cultural interest area signing, these agencies should have a policy for such signing. The policy should establish signing criteria for the eligibility of the various types of services, accommodations, and facilities. These signs should not be used where they might be confused with other traffic control signs.*

Option:

03 Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs may be used on any road to direct persons to facilities, structures, and places, and to identify various services available to the general public. These guide signs may also be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing non-vehicular events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities.

Support:

04 Section 2A.12 contains information regarding the use of recreational and cultural interest area symbols on other types of signs.

Section 2M.03 Regulatory and Warning Signs

Standard:

01 **All regulatory and warning signs installed on public roads and streets within recreational and cultural interest areas shall comply with the requirements of Chapters 2A, 2B, 2C, 7B, 8B, and 9B.**

Section 2M.04 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Guide Signs

Standard:

01 **Recreational and cultural interest area symbol guide signs shall be square or rectangular in shape and shall have a white symbol or message and white border on a brown background. The symbols shall be grouped into the following usage and series categories:**

A. General Applications,
B. Accommodations,
C. Services,
D. Land Recreation,
E. Water Recreation, and
F. Winter Recreation.

Support:

02 Table 2M-1 contains a listing of the symbols within each series category. Drawings showing the design details for these symbols are found in the Standard Highway Signs and Markings book (see Section 1A.11).

Option:

03 Mirror images of symbols may be used where the reverse image will better convey the message.

Table 2M-1. Category Chart for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbols

General	
Bear Viewing Area	RS-012
Bus Stop	RS-031
Campfires *	RS-042
Cans or Bottles *	RS-101
Cultural Interest Area	RS-142
Dam	RS-009
Deer Viewing Area	RS-011
Falling Rocks *	RS-008
Fire Extinguisher *	RS-090
Lighthouse	RS-007
Lookout Tower	RS-006
Nature Study Area	RS-141
Pets on Leash *	RS-017
Pick-Up Trucks	RS-140
Point of Interest	RS-080
Radios *	RS-103
Rattlesnakes *	RS-099
Recycling *	RS-200
Sea Plane	RS-115
Smoking *	RS-002
Snack Bar *	RS-102
Stay on Trail *	RS-123
Strollers *	RS-111
Tunnel	RS-005
Viewing Area	RS-036
Walk on Boardwalk *	RS-122
Wood Gathering *	RS-120

Accommodations	
Baby Changing Station (Men's Room)	RS-137
Baby Changing Station (Women's Room)	RS-138
Men's Restroom	RS-021
Parking	RS-034
Recreational Vehicle Site	RS-104
Restrooms	RS-022
Sleeping Shelter *	RS-037
Trailer Site	RS-040
Walk-In Camp	RS-148
Women's Restroom	RS-023

Services	
Drinking Water	RS-013
Electrical Hook-Up	RS-150
Firewood Cutting *	RS-112
First Aid	RS-024
Grocery Store	RS-020
Kennel	RS-045
Laundromat	RS-085
Litter Receptacle	RS-086
Lockers/Storage *	RS-030
Mechanic	RS-027
Picnic Shelter	RS-039
Picnic Site	RS-044
Post Office	RS-026
Ranger Station	RS-015
Sanitary Station	RS-041
Showers *	RS-035
Stable	RS-073
Theater	RS-109
Trail Shelter *	RS-043
Tramway	RS-071
Trash Dumpster	RS-091

Land Recreation	
All-Terrain Trail	RS-095
Amphitheater	RS-070
Archery	RS-116
Baseball *	RS-096
Climbing *	RS-082
Corral	RS-149
Driving Tour	RS-113
Exercise/Fitness	RS-097
Golfing *	RS-128
Hang Gliding	RS-126
Hiking Trail	RS-068
Horse Trail	RS-064
In-Line Skating	RS-125
Interpretive Trail	RS-114
Off-Road Vehicle Trail	RS-067
Rock Collecting *	RS-083
Skateboarding *	RS-098
Spelunking/Caves	RS-084
Technical Rock Climbing	RS-081
Tennis	RS-129
Wildlife Viewing	RS-076

Water Recreation	
Beach	RS-145
Boat Motor	RS-147
Boat Ramp	RS-054
Canoeing	RS-079
Diving	RS-062
Fish Cleaning *	RS-093
Fish Hatchery	RS-010
Fish Ladder *	RS-089
Fishing Area	RS-063
Fishing Pier	RS-119
Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch	RS-117
Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft	RS-121
Kayaking	RS-118
Lifejackets *	RS-094
Marina	RS-053
Motorboating	RS-055
Rafting	RS-146
Rowboating	RS-057
Sailing	RS-056
Scuba Diving	RS-060
Seal Viewing	RS-106
Surfing	RS-059
Swimming	RS-061
Tour Boat	RS-087
Wading	RS-088
Waterskiing	RS-058
Whale Viewing	RS-107
Wind Surfing	RS-108

Winter Recreation	
Chair Lift/Ski Lift	RS-105
Cross Country Skiing	RS-046
Dog Sledding	RS-143
Downhill Skiing	RS-047
Ice Fishing	RS-092
Ice Skating	RS-050
Ski Jumping	RS-048
Sledding	RS-049
Snow Tubing	RS-144
Snowboarding	RS-127
Snowmobiling	RS-052
Snowshoeing	RS-078
Winter Recreational Area	RS-077

* For non-road use only

Section 2M.05 Symbol Sign Sizes

Guidance:

01 *Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 24 x 24 inches. Where greater visibility or emphasis is needed, larger sizes should be used. Symbol sign enlargements should be in 6-inch increments.*

02 *Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 30 x 30 inches when used on guide signs on freeways or expressways.*

Option:

03 A smaller size of 18 x 18 inches may be used on low-speed, low-volume roadways and on non-road applications.

Section 2M.06 Use of Educational Plaques

Guidance:

01 *Educational plaques should accompany all initial installations of recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs. The educational plaque should remain in place for at least 3 years after the initial installation. If used, the educational plaque should be the same width as the symbol sign.*

Option:

02 Symbol signs that are readily recognizable by the public may be installed without educational plaques.

Support:

03 Figure 2M-1 illustrates some examples of the use of educational plaques.

Section 2M.07 Use of Prohibitive Circle and Diagonal Slash for Non-Road Applications

Standard:

01 **Where it is necessary to indicate a prohibition of an activity or an item within a recreational or cultural interest area for non-road use and a standard regulatory sign for such a prohibition is not provided in Chapter 2B, the appropriate recreational and cultural interest area symbol shall be used in combination with a red prohibitive circle and red diagonal slash. The recreational and cultural interest area symbol and the sign border shall be black and the sign background shall be white. The symbol shall be scaled proportionally to fit completely within the circle and the diagonal slash shall be oriented from the upper left to the lower right portions of the circle as shown in Figure 2M-1.**

02 **Requirements for retroreflection of the red circle and red diagonal slash shall be the same as those requirements for backgrounds, legends, symbols, arrows, and borders.**

Section 2M.08 Placement of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs

Standard:

01 **If used, recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be placed in accordance with the general requirements contained in Chapter 2A. The symbol(s) shall be placed as sign panels in the uppermost part of the sign and the directional information shall be placed below the symbol(s).**

02 **Except as provided in Paragraph 3, if the name of the recreational or cultural interest area facility or activity is displayed on a destination guide sign (see Section 2M.09) and a symbol is used, the symbol shall be placed below the name (see Figure 2M-2).**

Option:

03 When the legend Wildlife Viewing Area is displayed with the RS-076 symbol on a destination guide sign, the symbol may be placed to the left or right of the legend and the arrow may be placed below the symbol (see Figure 2M-2).

04 The symbols displayed with the facility or activity name may be placed below the destination guide sign as illustrated in Figure 2M-2 instead of as sign panels placed with the destination guide sign.

05 Secondary symbols of a smaller size (18 x 18 inches) may be placed beneath the primary symbols (see Drawing A in Figure 2M-1), where needed.

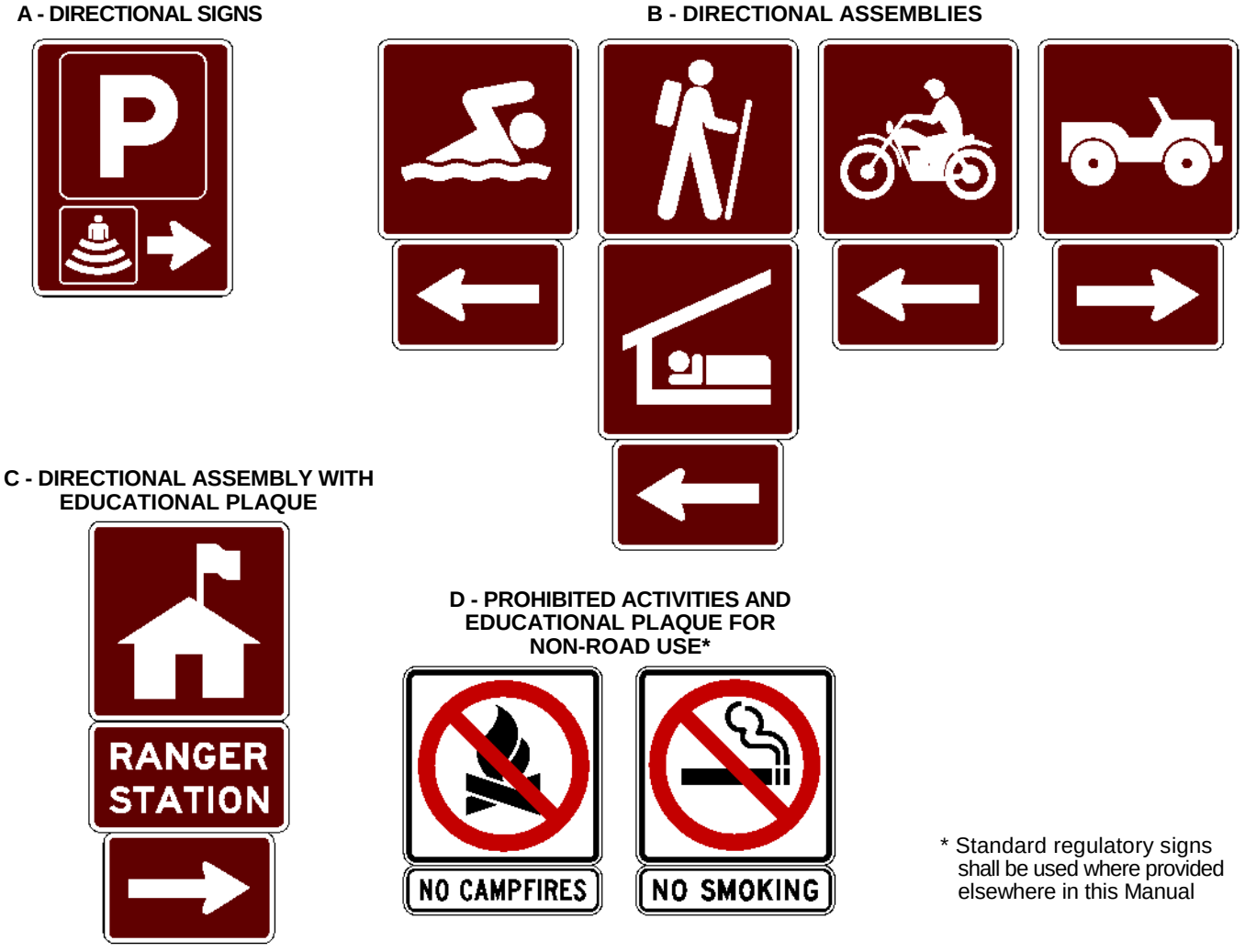
Standard:

06 **Recreational and cultural interest area symbols installed for non-road use shall be placed in accordance with the general sign position requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.**

Support:

07 Figure 2M-3 illustrates typical height and lateral mounting positions. Figure 2M-4 illustrates some examples of the placement of symbol signs within a recreational or cultural interest area. Figures 2M-5 through 2M-10 illustrate some of the symbols that can be used.

Figure 2M-1. Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibitive Slashes



Guidance:

08 *The number of symbols used in a single sign assembly should not exceed four.*

Option:

09 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs with white arrows on brown backgrounds shown in Figure 2D-5 may be used with Recreational and Cultural Area Interest symbol guide signs to create a Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Directional Assembly. The symbols may be used singularly, or in groups of two, three, or four on a single sign assembly (see Figures 2M-1, 2M-3, and 2M-4).

Section 2M.09 Destination Guide Signs

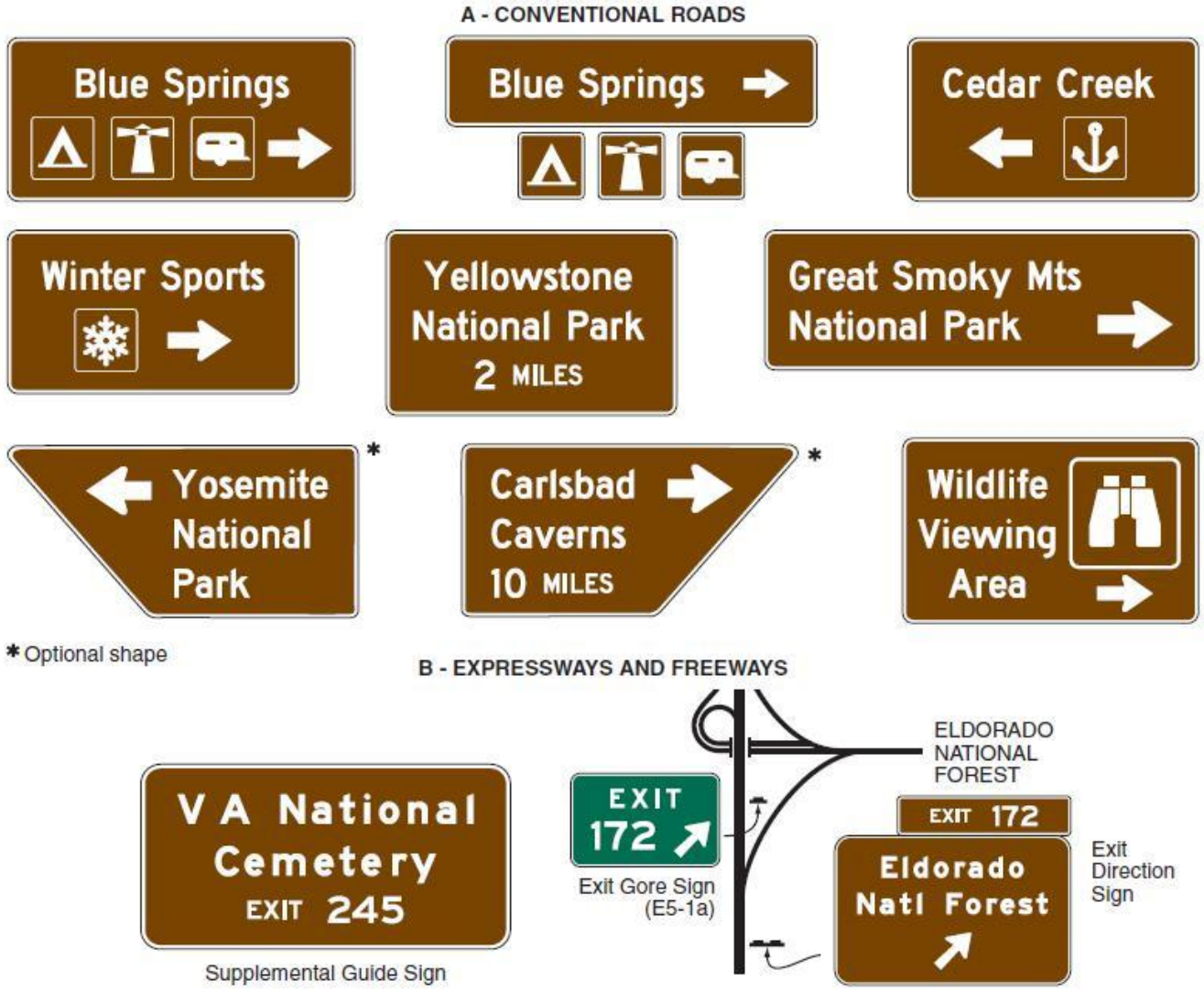
Guidance:

01 *When recreational or cultural interest area destinations are displayed on supplemental guide signs, the sign should be rectangular or trapezoidal in shape. The order of preference for use of shapes and colors should be as follows: (1) rectangular with a white legend and border on a brown background; (2) rectangular with a white legend and border on a green background; or (3) trapezoidal with a white legend and border on a brown background.*

Standard:

02 **Whenever the trapezoidal shape is used, the color combination shall be a white legend and border on a brown background.**

Figure 2M-2. Examples of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Guide Signs



Option:

03 Destination guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be posted at the first point where an access or crossroad intersects a highway where recreational or cultural interest areas are a significant destination along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways. Supplemental guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be used along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways to direct road users to recreational or cultural interest areas. Where access or crossroads lead exclusively to the recreational or cultural interest area, the advance guide sign and the exit direction sign may have a white legend and border on a brown background.

Standard:

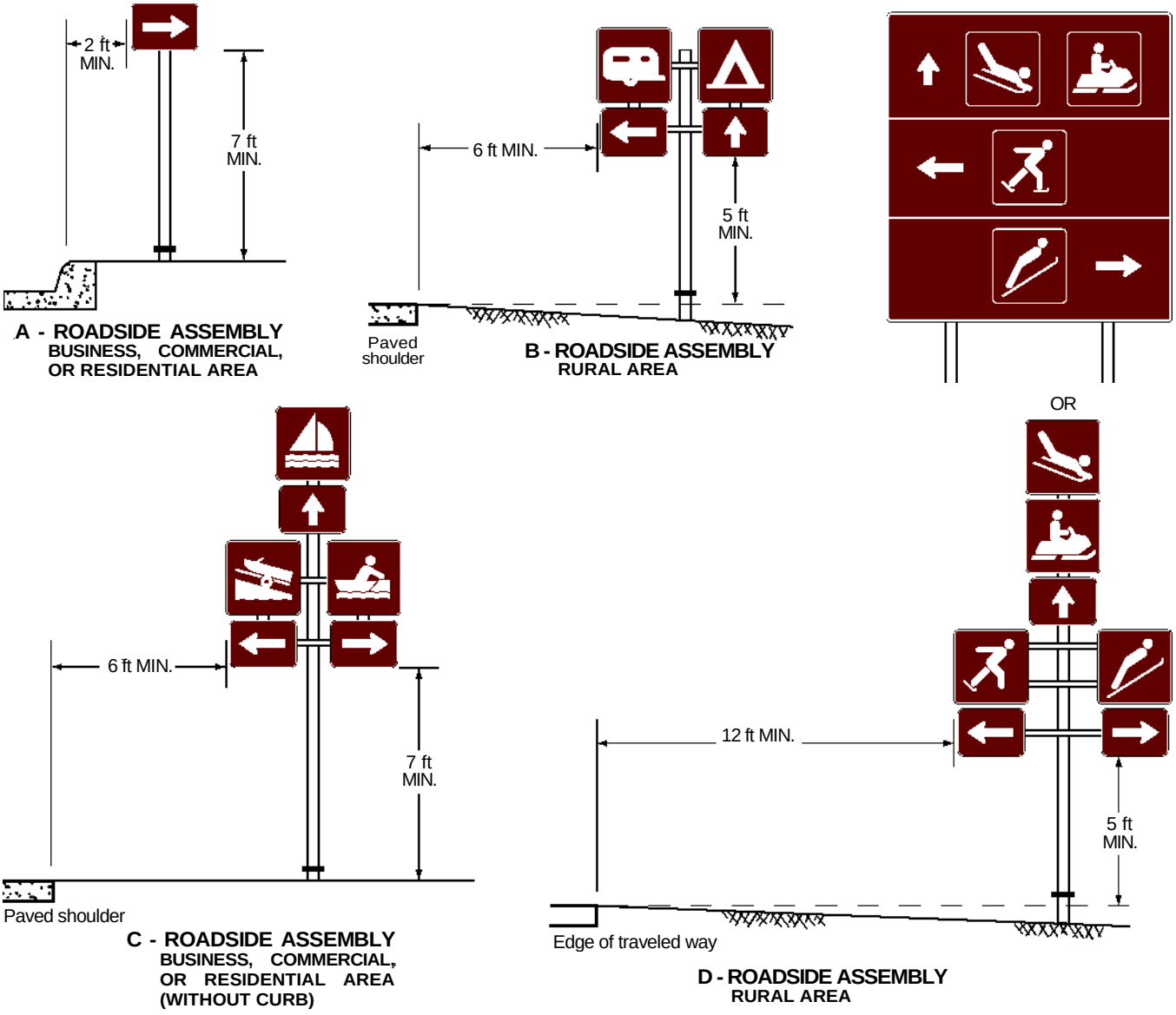
04 **All Exit Gore (E5-1 and E5-1a) signs (see Section 2E.37) shall have a white legend and border on a green background. The background color of the interchange Exit Number (E1-5P and E1-5bP) plaque (see Section 2E.31) shall match the background color of the guide sign. Design characteristics of conventional road, expressway, or freeway guide signs shall comply with Chapter 2D or 2E except as provided in this Section for color combination.**

05 **The advance guide sign and the Exit Direction sign shall retain the white-on-green color combination where the crossroad leads to a destination other than a recreational or cultural interest area.**

Support:

06 Figure 2M-2 illustrates destination guide signs commonly used for identifying recreational or cultural interest areas or facilities.

Figure 2M-3. Arrangement, Height, and Lateral Position of Signs Located Within Recreational and Cultural Interest Areas



Note: See Section 2A. 19 for reduced lateral offset distances that may be used in areas where lateral offsets are limited, and in urban areas where sidewalk width is limited or where existing poles are close to the curb.

Figure 2M-4. Examples of Symbol and Destination Guide Signing Layout

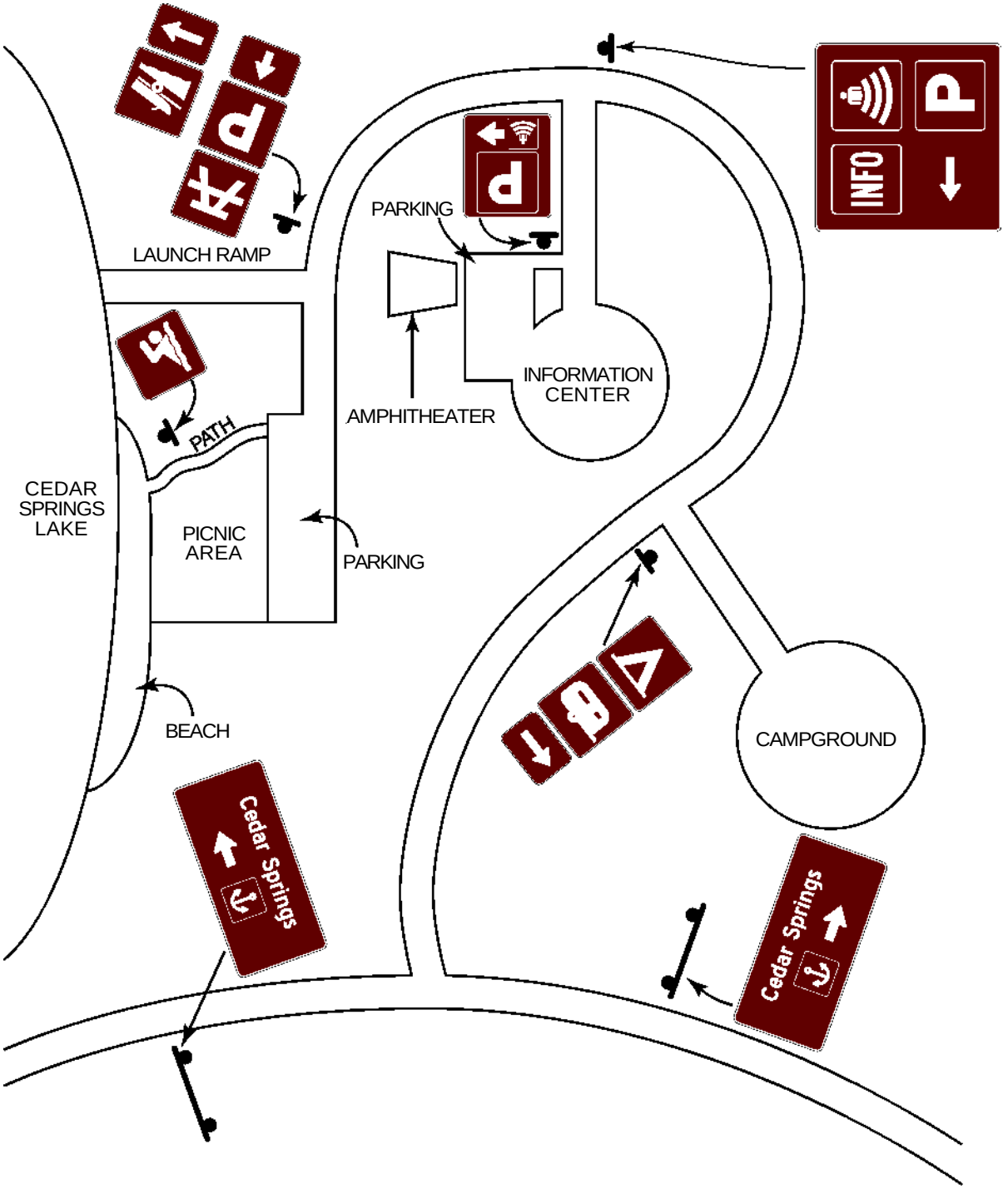
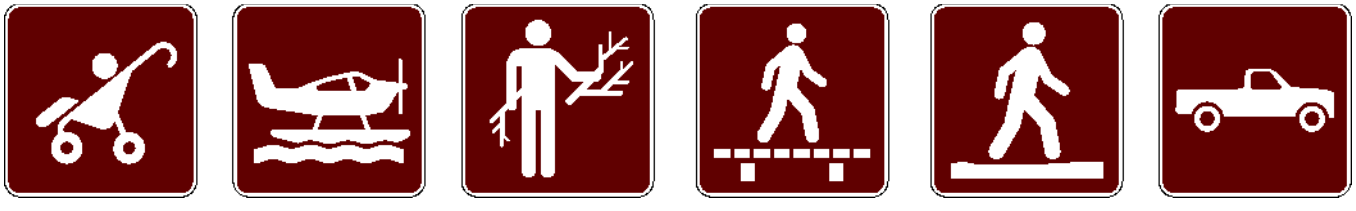


Figure 2M-5. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for General Applications

RS-002 Smoking | RS-005 Tunnel | RS-006 Lookout Tower | RS-007 Lighthouse | RS-008 Falling Rocks | RS-009 Dam

RS-011 Deer Viewing Area | RS-012 Bear Viewing Area | RS-017 Pets on Leash | RS-031 Bus Stop | RS-036 Viewing Area | RS-042 Campfires

RS-080 Point of Interest | RS-090 Fire Extinguisher | RS-099 Rattlesnakes | RS-101 Cans or Bottles | RS-102 Snack Bar | RS-103 Radios



RS-111 Strollers | RS-115 Sea Plane | RS-120 Wood Gathering | RS-122 Walk on Boardwalk | RS-123 Stay on Trail | RS-140 Pick-up Trucks

RS-141 Nature Study Area | RS-142 Cultural Interest Area | RS-200 Recycling

Figure 2M-6. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Accommodations

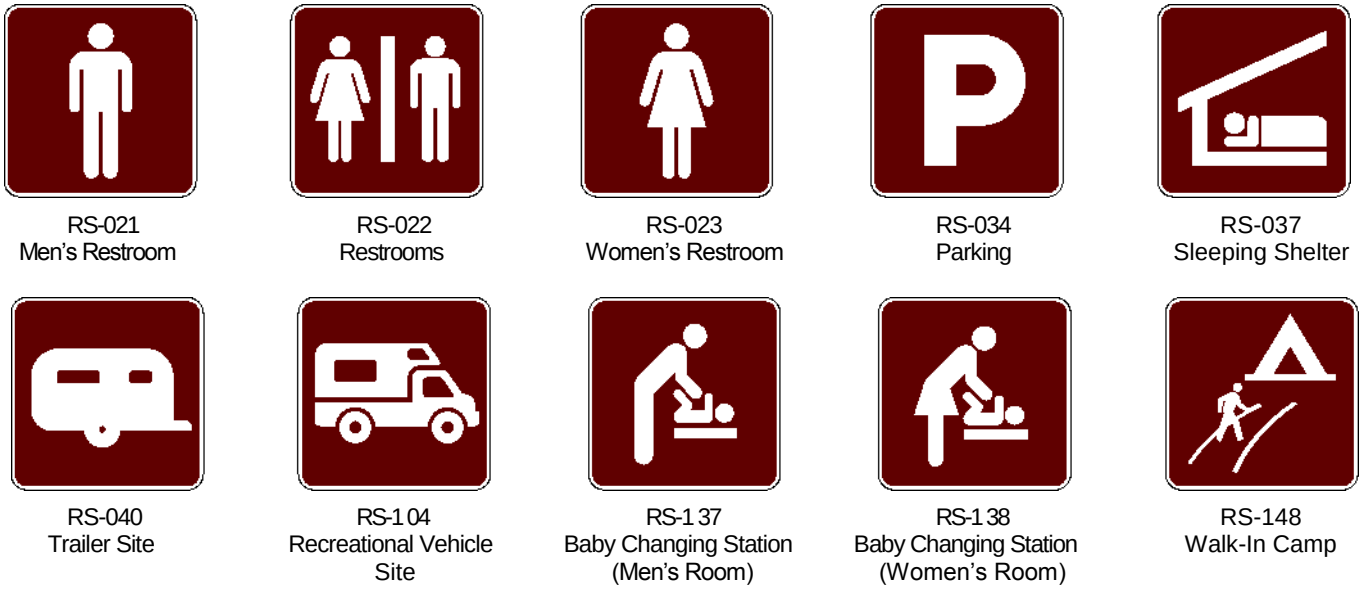


Figure 2M-7. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Services

Figure 2M-8. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Land Recreation

Section 2M.10 Memorial or Dedication Signing

Support:

01 Legislative bodies will occasionally adopt an act or resolution memorializing or dedicating a highway, bridge, or other component of the highway.

Guidance:

02 *Such memorial or dedication names should not appear on or along a highway, or be placed on bridges or other highway components. If a route, bridge, or highway component is officially designated as a memorial or dedication, and ifnotification of the memorial or dedication is to be made on the highway right-of-way, such notification should consist of installing a memorial or dedication marker in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location where parking is provided with the signing inconspicuously located relative to vehicle operations along the highway.*

Option:

03 If the installation of a memorial or dedication marker off the main roadway is not practical, memorial or dedication signs may be installed on the mainline.

Guidance:

04 *Memorial or dedication signs should have a white legend and border on a brown background.*

Figure 2M-9. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Water Recreation

RS-010
Fish Hatchery

RS-053
Marina

RS-054
Boat Ramp

RS-055
Motorboating

RS-056
Sailing

RS-057
Rowboating

RS-058
Waterskiing

RS-059
Surfing

RS-060
Scuba Diving

RS-061
Swimming

RS-062
Diving

RS-063
Fishing Area

RS-079
Canoeing

RS-087
Tour Boat

RS-088
Wading

RS-089
Fish Ladder

RS-093
Fish Cleaning

RS-094
Lifejackets

RS-1 06
Seal Viewing

RS-1 07
Whale Viewing

RS-1 08
Wind Surfing

RS-1 17
Hand Launch/
Small Boat Launch

RS-1 18
Kayaking

RS-1 19
Fishing Pier

RS-121
Jet Ski/Personal
Watercraft

RS-145
Beach

RS-146
Rafting

RS-147
Boat Motor

Figure 2M-10. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Winter Recreation

Standard:

05 **Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the mainline, (1) memorial or dedication names shall not appear on directional guide signs, (2) memorial or dedication signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other necessary signing, and (3) memorial or dedication signs shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow. The memorial or dedication signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an independent sign installation.**

06 **Memorial or dedication signs shall be rectangular in shape. The legend displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be limited to the name of the person or entity being recognized and a simple message preceding or following the name, such as Dedicated to or Memorial Parkway. Additional legend, such as biographical information, shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. Decorative or graphical elements, pictographs, logos, or symbols shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. All letters and numerals displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be as provided in the Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book (see Section 1A.11). The route number or officially mapped name of the highway shall not be displayed on the memorial or dedication sign.**

07 **Memorial or dedication names shall not appear on supplemental signs or on any other information sign on or along the highway or its intersecting routes.**

Option:

08 The lettering for the name of the person or entity being recognized may be composed of a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters.

Guidance:

09 *Freeways and expressways should not be signed as memorial or dedicated highways.*

Support:

10 Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway. Section 2D.53 contains provisions for the signing of named highways.

CHAPTER 2N. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIGNING

Section 2N.01 Emergency Management

Guidance:

01 *Contingency planning for an emergency evacuation should be considered by all State and local jurisdictions and should consider the use of all applicable roadways.*

02 *In the event of a disaster where highways that cannot be used will be closed, a successful contingency plan should account for the following elements: a controlled operation of certain designated highways, the establishment of traffic operations for the expediting of essential traffic, and the provision of emergency centers for civilian aid.*

Section 2N.02 Design of Emergency Management Signs

Standard:

01 **Emergency Management signs shall be used to guide and control highway traffic during an emergency.**

02 **Emergency Management signs shall not permanently displace any of the standard signs that are normally applicable.**

03 **Advance planning for transportation operations emergencies shall be the responsibility of State and local authorities. The Federal Government shall provide guidance to the States as necessitated by changing circumstances.**

04 **Except as provided in Section 2A.11, the sizes for Emergency Management signs shall be as shown in Table 2N-1.**

Support:

05 Section 2A.1 1 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns in Table 2N-1.

Option:

06 Signs larger than those shown in Table 2N-1 may be used (see Section 2A.1 1).

Guidance:

07 *As conditions permit, the Emergency Management signs should be replaced or augmented by standard signs.*

08 *The background of Emergency Management signs should be retroreflective.*

09 *Because Emergency Management signs might be needed in large numbers for temporary use during an emergency, consideration should be given to their fabrication from any light and economical material that can serve through the emergency period.*

Option:

10 Any Emergency Management sign that is used to mark an area that is contaminated by biological or chemical warfare agents or radioactive fallout may be accompanied by the standard symbol that is illustrated in the upper left corner of the EM-7c and EM-7d signs in Figure 2N-1.

Section 2N.03 Evacuation Route Signs (EM-1 and EM-1a)

Standard:

01 **The Evacuation Route (EM-1 and EM-1a) signs shall display a blue circular symbol on a white square sign without a border as shown in Figure 2N-1. The EM-1 sign shall include a white directional arrow (except as provided in Paragraph 3) and a white legend EVACUATION ROUTE within the blue circular symbol. The EM-1a sign shall include a white EVACUATION ROUTE legend and the tsunami symbol within the blue circular symbol. The EM-1 and EM-1a signs shall be retroreflective.**

02 **An Advance Turn Arrow (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary sign as shown in Figure 2D-5, but with a white arrow on a blue background instead of a black arrow on a white background, shall be installed below the EM-1a sign.**

Option:

03 Instead of including a directional arrow within the blue circular symbol on the EM-1 sign, an Advance Turn Arrow (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary sign as shown in Figure 2D-5, but with a white arrow on a blue background instead of a black arrow on a white background, may be installed below the EM-1 sign.

04 If desired, the word HURRICANE, or a word that describes some other type of evacuation route, may be added as a third line of text above the white EVACUATION ROUTE legend within the blue circular symbol on the EM-1 sign.

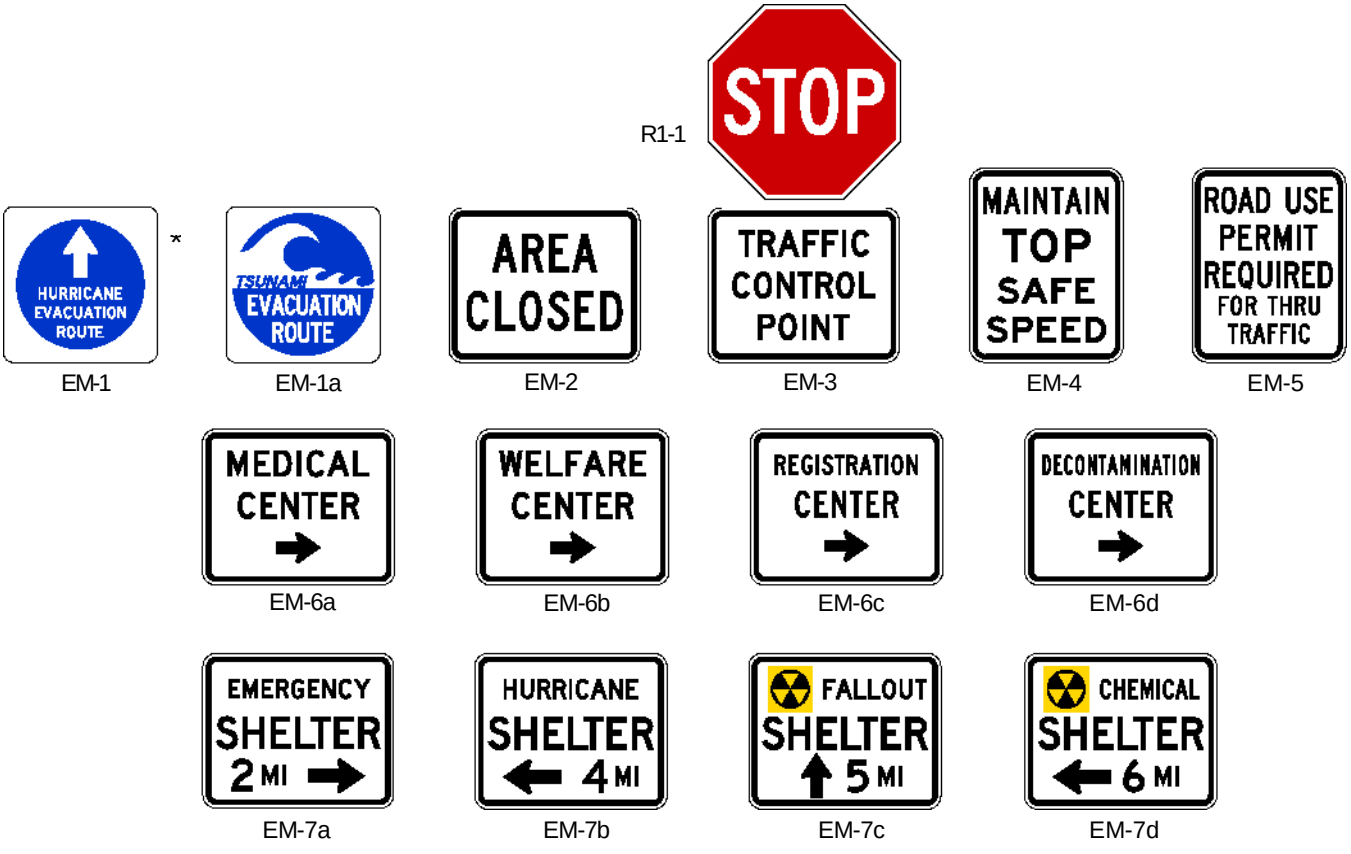
Table 2N-1. Emergency Management Sign Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Minimum Size
Evacuation Route	EM-1,EM-1a	2N.03	24 x 24*
Area Closed	EM-2	2N.04	30 x 24
Traffic Control Point	EM-3	2N.05	30 x 24
Maintain Top Safe Speed	EM-4	2N.06	24 x 30
Permit Required	EM-5	2N.07	24 x 30
Emergency Aid Center	EM-6a to EM-6d	2N.08	30 x 24
Shelter Directional	EM-7a to EM-7d	2N.09	30 x 24

* A minimum size of 18 x 18 may be used on low-volume roadways or roadways with speeds of 25 mph or less

Notes: 1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate
2. Dimensions in inches are shown as width x height

Figure 2N-1. Emergency Management Signs



* HURRICANE is an example of one type of evacuation route. Legends for other types may also be used, or this line of text may be omitted.

05 An approved Emergency Management symbol with a diameter of 3.5 inches may appear near the bottom of an Evacuation Route sign.

Standard:

06 **The arrow designs, if used, on the EM-1 sign shall include a straight, vertical arrow pointing upward, a straight horizontal arrow pointing to the left or right, or a bent arrow pointing to the left or right for advance warning of a turn.**

07 **If used, the Evacuation Route sign, with the appropriate arrow, shall be installed 150 to 300 feet in advance of, and at, any turn in an approved evacuation route. The sign shall also be installed elsewhere for straight-ahead confirmation where needed.**

08 **If used in urban areas, the Evacuation Route sign shall be mounted at the right-hand side of the roadway, not less than 7 feet above the top of the curb, and at least 1 foot back from the face of the curb. If used in rural areas, the Evacuation Route sign shall be mounted at the right-hand side of the roadway, not less than 7 feet above the pavement and not less than 6 feet or more than 10 feet to the right of the right-hand roadway edge.**

09 **Evacuation Route signs shall not be placed where they will conflict with other signs. Where conflict in placement would occur between the Evacuation Route sign and a standard regulatory sign, the regulatory sign shall take precedence.**

Option:

10 In case of conflict with guide or warning signs, the Evacuation Route sign may take precedence.

Guidance:

11 *Placement of Evacuation Route signs should be made under the supervision of the officials having jurisdiction over the placement of other traffic signs. Coordination with Emergency Management authorities and agreement between contiguous political entities should occur to assure continuity of routes.*

Section 2N.04 AREA CLOSED Sign (EM-2)

Standard:

01 **The AREA CLOSED (EM-2) sign (see Figure 2N-1) shall be used to close a roadway in order to prohibit traffic from entering the area. It shall be installed on the shoulder as near as practical to the right-hand edge of the roadway, or preferably, on a portable mounting or barricade partly or entirely in the roadway.**

Guidance:

02 *For best visibility, particularly at night, the sign height should not exceed 4 feet measured vertically from the pavement to the bottom of the sign. Unless adequate advance warning signs are used, it should not be placed to create a complete and unavoidable blocked route. Where feasible, the sign should be located at an intersection that provides a detour route.*

Section 2N.05 TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT Sign (EM-3)

Standard:

01 **The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT (EM-3) sign (see Figure 2N-1) shall be used to designate a location where an official traffic control point has been set up to impose such controls as are necessary to limit congestion, expedite emergency traffic, exclude unauthorized vehicles, or protect the public.**

02 **The sign shall be installed in the same manner as the AREA CLOSED sign (see Section 2N.04), and at the point where traffic must stop to be checked.**

03 **The standard STOP (R1-1) sign shall be used in conjunction with the TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign. The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign shall consist of a black legend and border on a retroreflectorized white background.**

Guidance:

04 *The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign should be mounted directly below the STOP sign.*

Section 2N.06 MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED Sign (EM-4)

Option:

01 The MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED (EM-4) sign (see Figure 2N-1) may be used on highways where conditions are such that it is prudent to evacuate or traverse an area as quickly as possible.

02 Where an existing Speed Limit (R2-1) sign is in a suitable location, the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign may conveniently be mounted directly over the face of the speed limit sign that it supersedes.

Support:

03 Since any speed zoning would be impractical under such emergency conditions, no minimum speed limit can be prescribed by the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign in numerical terms. Where traffic is supervised by a traffic control point, official instructions will usually be given verbally, and the sign will serve as an occasional reminder of the urgent need for maintaining the proper speed.

Guidance:

04 *The sign should be installed as needed, in the same manner as other standard speed signs*.

Standard:

05 **If used in rural areas, the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign shall be mounted on the right-hand side of the road at a horizontal distance of not less than 6 feet or more than 10 feet from the roadway edge, and at a minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way, of 5 feet. If used in urban areas, the minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the top of the curb, or in the absence of curb, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way, shall be 7 feet, and the nearest edge of the sign shall be not less than 1 foot back from the face of the curb.**

Section 2N.07 ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC Sign (EM-5)

Support:

01 The intent of the ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC (EM-5) sign (see Figure 2N-1) is to notify road users of the presence of the traffic control point so that those who do not have priority permits issued by designated authorities can take another route, or turn back, without making a needless trip and without adding to the screening load at the post. Local traffic, without permits, can proceed as far as the traffic control post.

Standard:

02 **If used, the ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC (EM-5) sign shall be used at an intersection that is an entrance to a route on which a traffic control point is located.**

03 **If used, the sign shall be installed in a manner similar to that of the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign (see Section 2N.06).**

Section 2N.08 Emergency Aid Center Signs (EM-6 Series)

Standard:

01 **In the event of emergency, State and local authorities shall establish various centers for civilian relief, communication, medical service, and similar purposes. To guide the public to such centers a series of directional signs shall be used.**

02 **Emergency Aid Center (EM-6 series) signs (see Figure 2N-1) shall carry the designation of the center and an arrow indicating the direction to the center. They shall be installed as needed, at intersections and elsewhere, on the right-hand side of the roadway, in urban areas at a minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the top of the curb, or in the absence of curb, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way, of 7 feet, and not less than 1 foot back from the face of the curb, and in rural areas at a minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way, of 5 feet, and at a horizontal distance of not less than 6 feet or more than 10 feet from the roadway edge.**

03 **Emergency Aid Center signs shall carry one of the following legends, as appropriate, or others designating similar emergency facilities:**

A. MEDICAL CENTER (EM-6a),
B. WELFARE CENTER (EM-6b),
C. REGISTRATION CENTER (EM-6c), or
D. DECONTAMINATION CENTER (EM-6d).

04 **The Emergency Aid Center sign shall be a horizontal rectangle. Except as provided in Paragraph 5, the identifying word and the word CENTER, the directional arrow, and the border shall be black on a white background.**

Option:

05 When Emergency Aid Center signs are used in an incident situation, such as during the aftermath of a nuclear or biological attack, the background color may be fluorescent pink (see Chapter 6I).

Section 2N.09 Shelter Directional Signs (EM-7 Series)

Standard:

01 **Shelter Directional (EM-7 series) signs (see Figure 2N-1) shall be used to direct the public to selected shelters that have been licensed and marked for emergency use.**

02 **The installation of Shelter Directional signs shall comply with established signing standards. Where used, the signs shall not be installed in competition with other necessary highway guide, warning, and regulatory signs.**

03 **The Shelter Directional sign shall be a horizontal rectangle. Except as provided in Paragraph 4, the identifying word and the word SHELTER, the directional arrow, the distance to the shelter, and the border shall be black on a white background.**

Option:

04 When Shelter Directional signs are used in an incident situation, such as during the aftermath of a nuclear or biological attack, the background color may be fluorescent pink (see Chapter 6I).

05 The distance to the shelter may be omitted from the sign when appropriate.

06 Shelter Directional signs may carry one of the following legends, or others designating similar emergency facilities:

A. EMERGENCY (EM-7a),
B. HURRICANE (EM-7b),
C. FALLOUT (EM-7c), or
D. CHEMICAL (EM-7d).

07 If appropriate, the name of the facility may be used.

08 The Shelter Directional signs may be installed on the Interstate Highway System or any other major highway system when it has been determined that a need exists for such signs as part of a State or local shelter plan.

09 The Shelter Directional signs may be used to identify different routes to a shelter to provide for rapid movement of large numbers of persons.

Guidance:

10 *The Shelter Directional sign should be used sparingly and only in conjunction with approved plans of State and local authorities.*

11 *The Shelter Directional sign should not be posted more than 5 miles from a shelter.*