



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

13236 North 7th Street, Suite 4-259, Phoenix, Arizona 85022
Phone/Text: 231-4-NCUTCD (231-462-8823)
E-mail: secretary@ncutcd.org Website: <https://ncutcd.org>

Item No.: 24B-GMI-01

NCUTCD PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Guide & Motorist Information Sign Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 24B-GMI-01
TOPIC: Advance Guide Sign Spacing Option
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Guide & Motorist Information Sign TC
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2E.23 Advance Guide Signs (E1 Series)
Section 2E.32 Diamond Interchange in Urban Area

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by GMI TC: 01/11/2024
Approved by NCUTCD Council:

This is a proposal for recommended changes to the MUTCD that has been developed by a technical committee or joint task force of the NCUTCD. The NCUTCD is distributing it to its sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Sponsor comments will be considered in revising the proposal prior to NCUTCD Council consideration. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. If approved by the NCUTCD Council, the recommended changes will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.

SUMMARY:

The MUTCD's option for spacing Advance Guide signs for closely spaced interchanges is in Section 2E.32, "Diamond Interchange in Urban Area." It should be in Section 2E.23, "Advance Guide Signs," so it can be applied to all types of interchanges in both urban and rural areas.

DISCUSSION:

The following option is included in Section 2E.32: "If interchanges are too closely spaced to locate the Advance Guide signs at the distances specified in Section 2E.23, they may be placed closer to the exit with the distances displayed adjusted accordingly." This text offers a useful option for spacing of Advance Guide signs, but it is located in the section entitled, "Diamond Interchange in Urban Area." The option permitted by this text should be available for all configurations of interchanges, not just diamonds, and should not be limited to urban areas. While closely spaced interchanges are more common in urban areas, they also exist in rural areas. This option is proposed to be relocated to Section 2E.23, where it will apply more broadly and fit in context.

36
37
38

For reference, following is a partial list of relevant sections in Chapter 2E:

GUIDE SIGNING FOR INTERCHANGES

Section 2E.21	Interchange Guide Signs	304
Section 2E.22	Interchange Exit Numbering	304
Section 2E.23	Interchange Advance Guide Signs (E1-1 through E1-3)	312
Section 2E.24	Interchange Sequence Signs (E9-1 and E9-2).....	314
Section 2E.25	Exit Direction Signs (E4 Series)	316
Section 2E.26	Exit Gore Signs and Plaque (E5-1 Series).....	319
Section 2E.27	Pull-Through Signs (E6-1 Series and E6-2 Series)	320
Section 2E.28	Signing for Interchange Lane Drops without an Optional Exit Lane	321
Section 2E.29	Signing by Type of Interchange.....	324
Section 2E.30	Minor Interchange	324
Section 2E.31	Diamond Interchange	333
Section 2E.32	Diamond Interchange in Urban Area	333
Section 2E.33	Cloverleaf Interchange	333
Section 2E.34	Cloverleaf Interchange with Collector-Distributor Roadways	337
Section 2E.35	Partial Cloverleaf Interchange	337
Section 2E.36	Collector-Distributor Roadways for Successive Interchanges	337
Section 2E.37	Freeway-to-Freeway Interchanges	337
Section 2E.38	Freeway Split with Dedicated Lanes	344
Section 2E.39	Signing for Option Lanes at Splits and Multi-Lane Exits	344
Section 2E.40	Design of Overhead Arrow-per-Lane Guide Signs for Option Lanes	346
Section 2E.41	Design of Freeway and Expressway Diagrammatic Advance Guide Signs.....	351
Section 2E.42	Signing for Intermediate and Minor Interchange Multi-Lane Exits with an Option Lane	356
Section 2E.43	Number of Signs at an Overhead Installation and Sign Spreading	361
Section 2E.44	Closely-Spaced Interchanges	363
Section 2E.45	Guide Signing in Tunnels and Similar Structures	363

39
40

This proposal would cause a net reduction of 5 words in the MUTCD.

41
42
43

RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:

44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55

The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases, background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated by [bracketed white text in shaded green]. Deletions made by a technical committee or task force after initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in ~~highlighted red strikethrough and Helvetica text~~. Additions made by a technical committee or task force after initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in underline blue and Helvetica text.

56 PART 2. SIGNS

57 CHAPTER 2E. GUIDE SIGNS—FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

58
59
60 Section 2E.23 Advance Guide Signs (E1 Series)

61 Support:

62 01 An Interchange Advance guide sign (see Figure 2E-9) gives notice well in advance of the exit point
63 of the principal destinations served by the next interchange and the distance to that interchange.

64 **Standard:**

65 02 **Except as provided in Paragraph 16 of this Section, and in Paragraph 18 of Section 2E.25, at**
66 **least one Interchange Advance guide sign shall be used for all interchange classifications.**

67 *Guidance:*

68 03 *At major and intermediate interchanges (see Section 2E.11), at least two Interchange Advance guide*
69 *signs should be used, placed at ½ mile and at 1 mile in advance of the exit. A third Interchange Advance*
70 *guide sign should be placed at 2 miles in advance of the exit if spacing permits.*

71 04 *At minor interchanges, the Interchange Advance guide sign should be located ½ to 1 mile from the*
72 *exit gore.*

73 Option:

74 04a If interchanges are too closely spaced to locate the Interchange Advance guide sign(s) at the
75 distances in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Section, they may be placed closer to the exit.

76 Support:

77 05 Sections 2E.29 through 2E.44 contain additional provisions regarding the number, location, and
78 mounting of Interchange Advance guide signs for certain interchange configurations.

79 **Standard:**

80 06 **Except as provided in Section 2E.28, the legend on Interchange Advance guide signs shall**
81 **contain the distance message. For each direction of travel, the legend on the Interchange Advance**
82 **guide signs shall be the same as the legend on the Exit Direction sign, except that the last line shall**
83 **be the distance message. The distance message shall read XX MILE(S) where exit numbers are**
84 **used. Where exit numbers are not used, the distance message shall read EXIT XX MILE(S) for an**
85 **interchange with one exit ramp, and EXITS XX MILE(S) for an interchange with two or more exit**
86 **ramps.**

87 *Guidance:*

88 07 *Where an Interchange Advance guide sign is located more than 1,000 feet to ½ mile but not more*
89 *than 1 mile from the exit, the distance displayed should be to the nearest ¼ mile. Where the distance to be*
90 *displayed on an Interchange Advance guide sign 1,000 feet or less, the distance should be displayed in*
91 *feet, rather than miles, to the nearest 100 feet.*

92 **Standard:**

93 08 **When a distance is displayed in miles, fractions of a mile, rather than decimals, shall be**
94 **displayed in all cases.**

95 09 **For numbered exits, the exit number used with the Interchange Advance guides signs shall be**
96 **displayed using an Exit Number plaque above and abutting the Interchange Advance guide sign.**

97 10 **For numbered exits to the right, an Exit Number (E1-5P through E1-5eP) plaque (see Figure**
98 **2E-9) shall be added to the top right-hand edge of the sign.**

99 11 For numbered exits to the left, a Left Exit Number (E1-5fP through E1-5kP) plaque (see
100 Figure 2E-9) shall be added directly above the top left-hand edge of the sign (see Figures 2E-18 and
101 2E-34).

102 12 For unnumbered exits to the left, a LEFT (E1-5mP) plaque (see Figure 2E-9) shall be added to
103 the top left-hand edge of the sign, abutting the sign.

104 Support:

105 13 Section 2E.22 contains additional information regarding exit numbering.

106 **Standard:**

107 14 Interchange Advance guide signs for multi-lane exits having an optional exit lane that also
108 carries the through route at major interchanges (see Figures 2E-36, 2E-37, and 2E-42) and for splits
109 with an option lane (see Figures 2E-38 and 2E-39) shall be Overhead Arrow-per-Lane signs
110 designed in accordance with Sections 2E.39 and 2E.40.

111 Option:

112 15 Where the distance between interchanges is more than 1 mile, but less than 2 miles, the first
113 Interchange Advance guide sign may be closer than 2 miles, but not placed so as to overlap the signing
114 for the preceding exit. Duplicate Interchange Advance guide signs or Interchange Sequence Series signs
115 may be placed in the median on the opposite side of the roadway and are not included in the minimum
116 requirements of interchange signing.

117 *Guidance:*

118 16 *Where there is less than 800 feet between the theoretical gores of successive interchange entrance or*
119 *exit ramps, Interchange Sequence Series signs (see Section 2E.24) should be used instead of Interchange*
120 *Advance guide signs for the affected interchanges.*

121 17 *The Interchange Advance guide signs for the last exit from a highway before it becomes a facility on*
122 *which toll payments are required should include the LAST EXIT BEFORE TOLL (W16-16P) plaque (see*
123 *Section 2F.10 and Figure 2F-4). The plaque should be installed above the Interchange Advance guide*
124 *signs, but below the Exit Number or LEFT plaque, if used.*

125

126 **Section 2E.32 Diamond Interchange in Urban Area**

127 Support:

128 01 An example of guide signs for a diamond interchange in an urban area is shown in Figure 2E-28.
129 This example includes the use of the Community Interchanges Identification sign (see Section 2E.52),
130 which might be useful if two or more interchanges serve the same community.

131 02 In urban areas, street names are often displayed as the principal message in destination signs.

132 **Option:**

133 03 ~~If interchanges are too closely spaced to locate the Interchange Advance Guide signs at the distances~~
134 ~~specified in Section 2E.23, they may be placed closer to the exit with the distances displayed adjusted~~
135 ~~accordingly.~~