



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-03

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-03
TOPIC: Publicly Accessible Off-Street Parking General Service Signs
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Council Approval 20A-GMI-01 with 11th Edition
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: 2D.03 Size of Signs
 2D.47 Parking Area Guide Sign
 2D.55 Community Wayfinding Signs
 2I.01 Size of General Service Signs
 2I.02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads

After publication of the 2023 MUTCD, the NCUTCD rescinded all MUTCD prior recommendations. This proposed change is based on one of those prior recommendations.

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:
 Approved by GMI TC: 04/24/2024
 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:

On January 9, 2020, the NCUTCD Council approved 20A-GMI-01, one month after FHWA released the NPA for the 11th Edition of the MUTCD. Since this material did not make it into the final rule, the same proposal has been updated to reflect the MUTCD 11th Edition language.

DISCUSSION:

This proposal seeks to uniformly utilize the symbol “P” for parking and recognize parking as a general service to motorists using a blue background (not a destination, green and white). It seeks to bring uniformity to parking shapes and symbols already used in the MUTCD for regulatory signs by using a circular shape. All of this is described in greater detail in the prior approved proposal 20A-GMI-01. In the prior proposal, it addresses prior FHWA representation of this concept in the 2008 NPA and the comment that led to it not being part of the 2009 MUTCD, along with the research that has subsequently been conducted that supports the approved 20A-GMI-01. The research includes both FHWA Pooled Fund studies and TTI

33 Distractor studies. In particular, a comparison was provided indicating nearly every country
 34 worldwide uses the “P” symbol for parking (except Spanish speaking countries that use an “e”).
 35 Finally, this is consistent with many metropolitan areas in the United States which already use
 36 the “P” symbol for parking.

37
 38 The approved proposal addressed all Sponsor comments in 2020 in preparing for the final
 39 approval of 20A-GMI-01. This proposal now incorporates the exact same changes using the
 40 MUTCD 11th Edition text.

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 42 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**

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

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 57 **PART 2. SIGNS**

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 59 **CHAPTER 2D. GUIDE SIGNS – CONVENTIONAL ROADS**

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 61 **Section 2D.03 Size of Signs**

62 **Table 2D-1. Conventional Road Guide Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 2 of 2)**

Sign or Plaque	Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
Parking Area Directional	D4-1	2D.47	30 x 24	18 x 15	-

63
 64 ~~**Section 2D.47 Parking Area Guide Sign (D4-1)**~~

65 ~~**Option:**~~
 66 ~~01— The Parking Area (D4-1) guide sign (see Figure 2D-14) may be used to show the direction to a~~
 67 ~~nearby public parking area or parking facility.~~

68 ~~[Text moved to paragraph 16a of Section 2I.02]~~

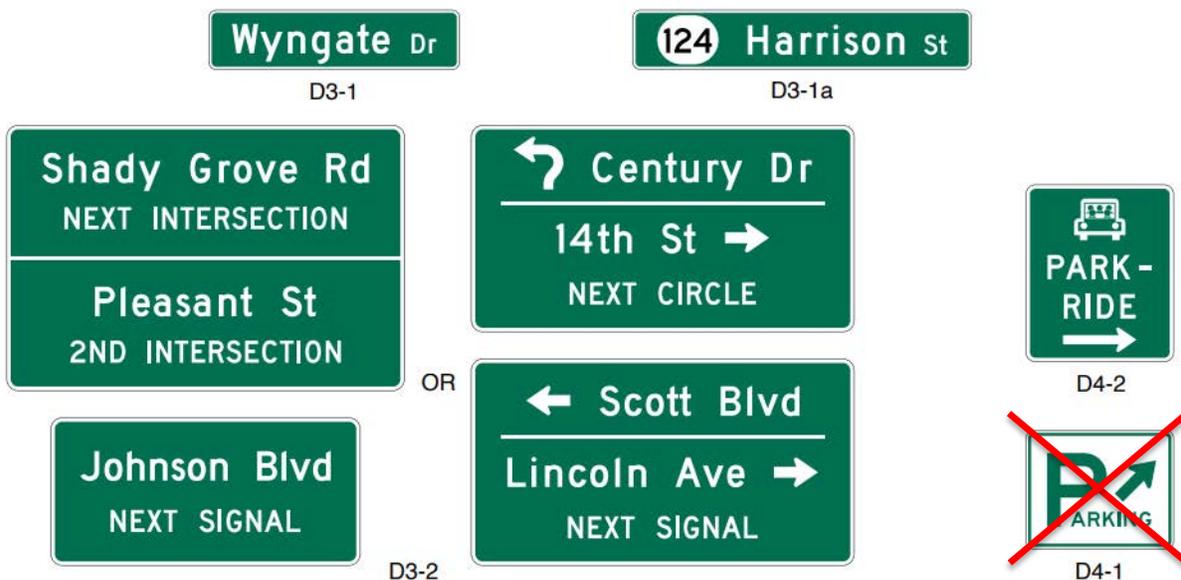
69 ~~**Standard:**~~
 70 ~~02— The smaller size of 18 x 15 inches for the Parking Area guide sign shall be limited to minor,~~
 71 ~~low-speed streets.~~

72 ~~**Guidance:**~~
 73 ~~03— If used, the Parking Area guide sign should be installed on major thoroughfares at the nearest point~~
 74 ~~of access to the parking facility and where it can advise drivers of a place to park. The sign should not be~~
 75 ~~used more than four blocks from the parking area.~~

76 [Similar text moved to paragraph 16b of Section 2I.02]

77
78 [Remove D4-1 from Figure 2D-14, replaced by new D9-XX]

Figure 2D-14. Street Name and Parking Signs



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80 OTHER GUIDE SIGNS

81 Section 2D.55 Community Wayfinding Signs

82 [Skip to paragraph 35]

83 Standard:

84 35 If a lettering style other than the Standard Alphabets is used, the alternative lettering style
85 shall be conventional in form. The letters, numerals, and other characters shall not be italic,
86 oblique, script, highly decorative, or of other unusual forms.

87 36 In accordance with Section 2A.04, except for signs that are designed and located with the intent
88 to be viewed only by pedestrians, bicyclists stopped out of the flow of traffic, or occupants of parked
89 vehicles, Internet and e-mail addresses, including domain names and uniform resource locators
90 (URL), and scanning graphics for the purpose of obtaining information (see Section 2A.04), shall
91 not be displayed on any community wayfinding guide sign or sign assembly.

92 37 The arrow location and priority order of destinations shall follow the provisions described in
93 Sections 2D.08 and 2D.36. Arrows shall be of the designs provided in Section 2D.08.

94 Option:

95 38 Pictographs (see definition in Section 1C.02) may be used on community wayfinding guide signs.

96 Standard:

97 39 If a pictograph is used, its height shall not exceed 2 times the height of the upper-case letters of
98 the principal legend on the sign.

99 40 Except for pictographs, symbols that are not approved in this Manual for use on guide signs
100 shall not be used on community wayfinding guide signs.

101 41 Business logos, commercial graphics, or other forms of advertising (see Section 1D.07) shall not
102 be used on community wayfinding guide signs or sign assemblies.

103 Guidance:

104 ^{41a} When used on community wayfinding signs, publicly accessible parking wayfinding should use the
105 parking symbol (see Section 2I.02 and refer to Figures 2D-31 and 2D-32).

106 Option:

107 ⁴² Other graphics that specifically identify the wayfinding system, including identification markers,
108 may be used on the overall sign assembly and sign supports.

109 Support:

110 ⁴³ An identification marker consists of a shape, color, and/or pictograph that is used as a visual
111 identifier for the community wayfinding guide signing system for an area. Figure 2D-30 shows examples
112 of identification marker designs that can be used with community wayfinding guide signs.

113 Option:

114 ⁴⁴ An identification marker may be used in a community wayfinding guide sign assembly, or may be
115 incorporated into the overall design of a community wayfinding guide sign, as a means of visually
116 identifying the sign as part of an overall system of community wayfinding signs and destinations.

117 **Standard:**

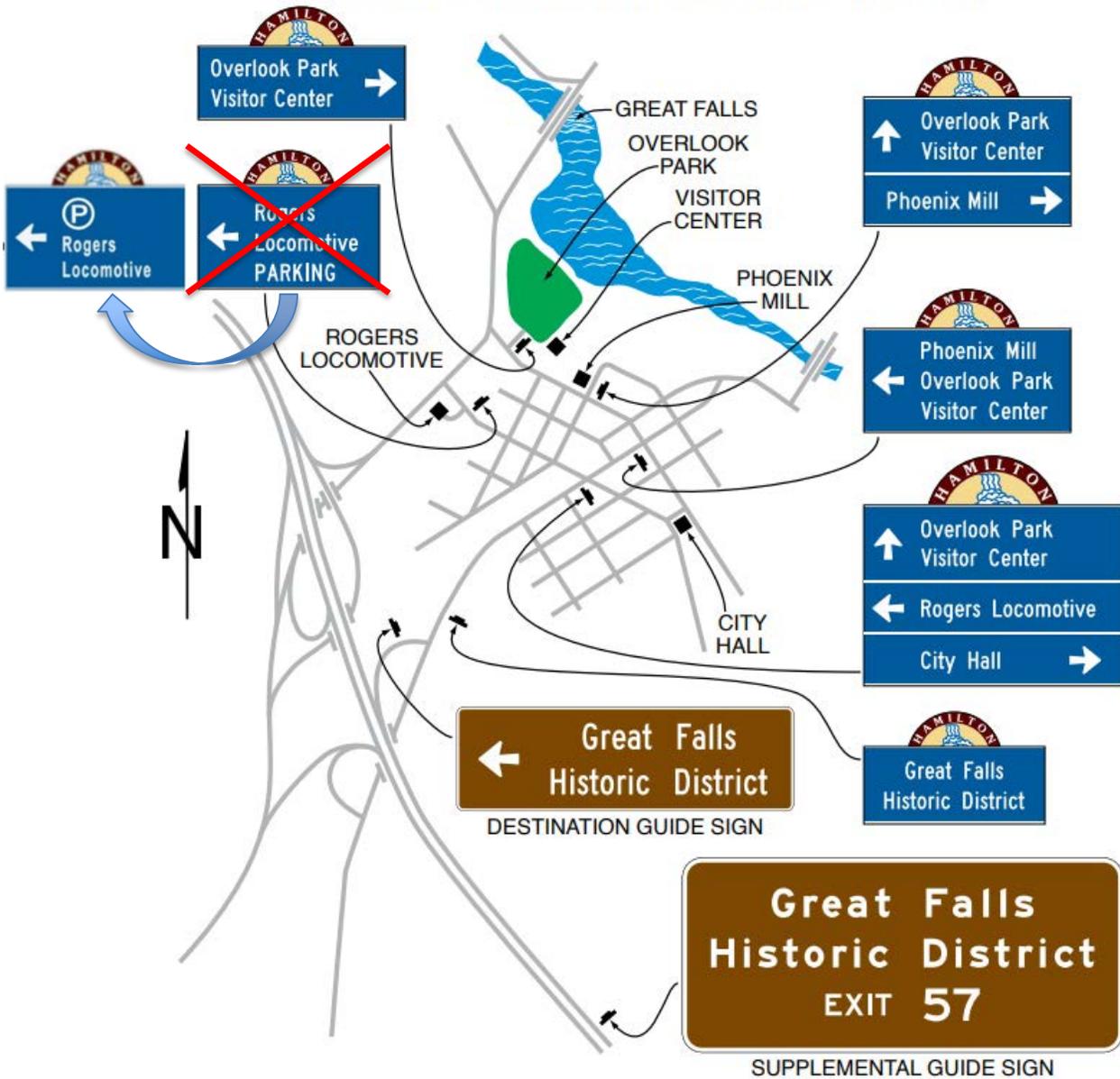
118 ⁴⁵ **The sizes and shapes of identification markers shall be smaller than the community wayfinding**
119 **guide signs themselves. Identification markers shall not be designed to have an appearance that**
120 **could be mistaken by road users as being a traffic control device.**

121 *Guidance:*

122 ⁴⁶ *The area of the identification marker should not exceed 1/3 of the area of the community wayfinding*
123 *guide sign with which it is mounted in the same sign assembly.*

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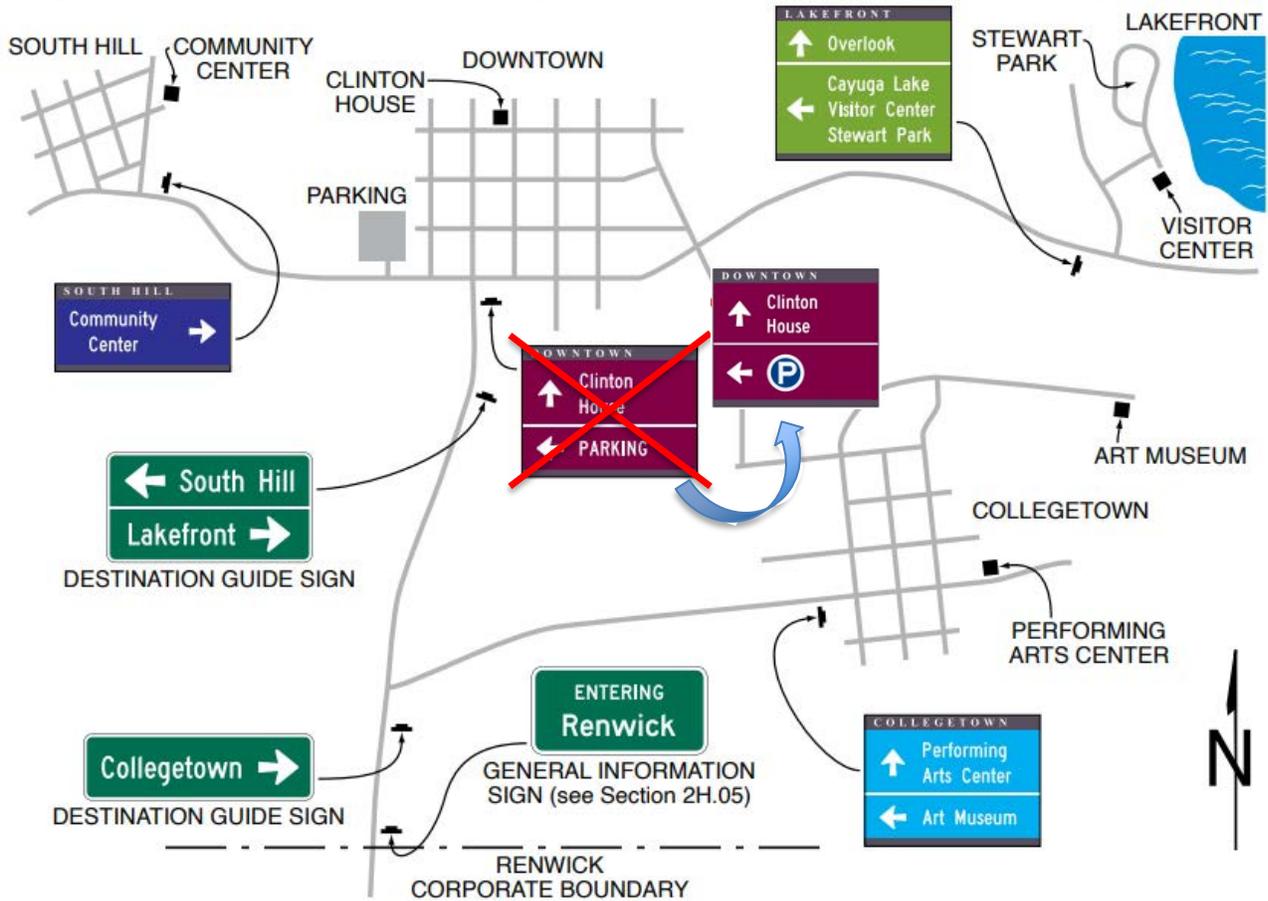
Figure 2D-31. Example of a Community Wayfinding Guide Sign System Showing Direction from a Freeway or Expressway



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Figure 2D-32. Example of a Color-Coded Community Wayfinding Guide Sign System



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128 **CHAPTER 2I. GENERAL SERVICES**

129 **Section 2I.01 Sizes of General Service Signs**

130 **Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes**

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Parking	D9-XX	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Parking Plaque	D9-XXP	2I.02	12 x 24	12 x 30

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132 **Section 2I.02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads**

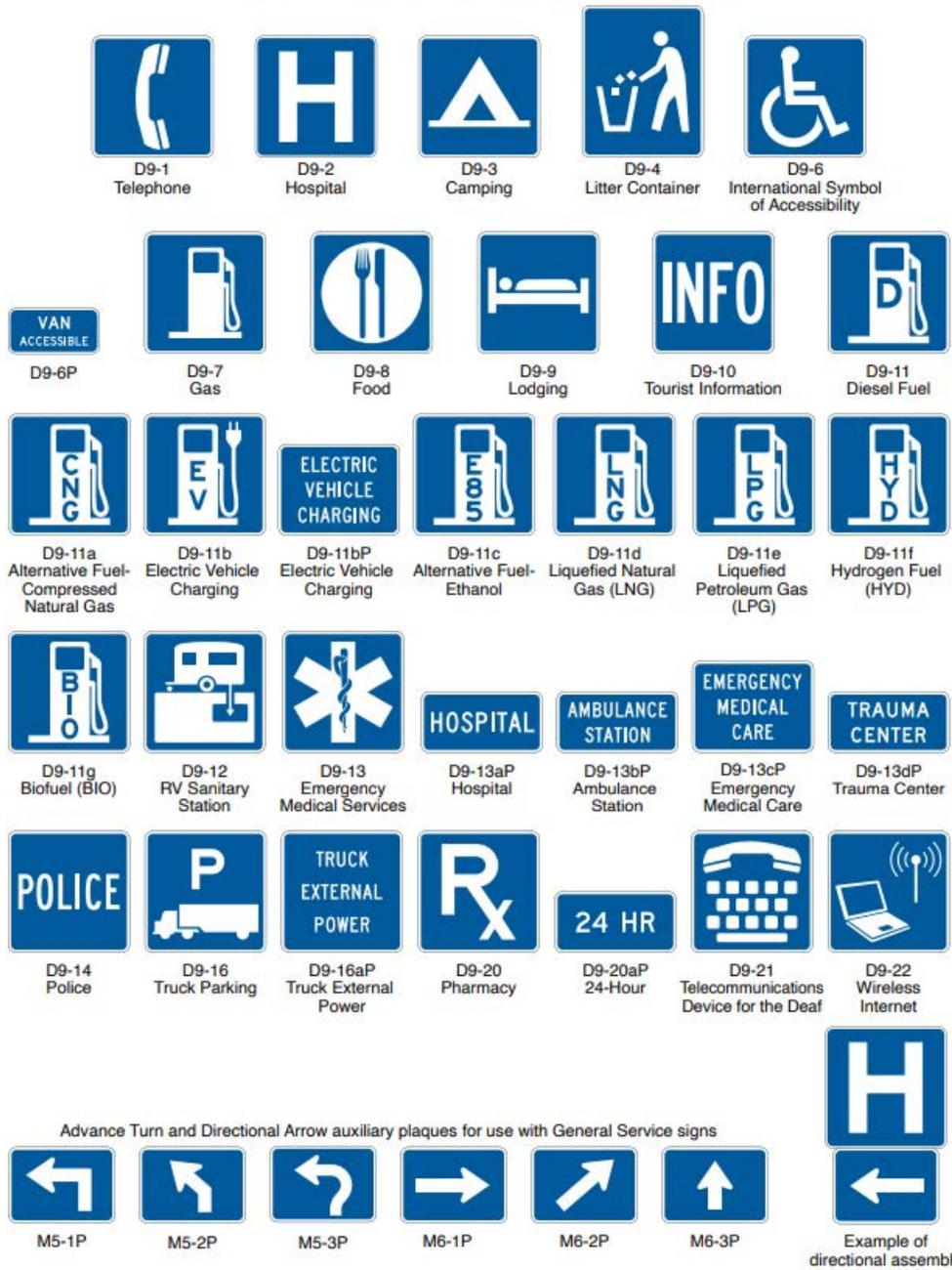
133 Support:

134 01 On conventional roads, commercial services such as gas, food, and lodging generally are within sight
 135 and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this
 136 class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover,
 137 General Service signing is usually not needed in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement
 138 assistance, tourist information centers, [parking](#) and camping.

139 Option:

140 02 General Service signs (see Figure 2I-1) may be used on conventional roads where such services are
 141 infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Figure 2I-1. General Service Signs and Plaques



Add Sign D9-XX



Add Plaque D9-XXP, Note as optional



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Standard:

03 All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have a white legend and border 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.

152 Option:
153 06 Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.

154 **Standard:**
155 07 **To be eligible for an EV Charging General Service sign on a conventional road, the EV**
156 **chargers provided shall meet the criteria for Direct Current Fast Chargers provided in 23 CFR**
157 **680.106 and be in continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week.**
158 08 **General Service signs, if used at intersections, shall be accompanied by a directional message.**

159 Option:
160 09 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary plaques (see Figure 2I-1)
161 with white arrows on blue backgrounds may be used with General Service symbol signs to create a
162 General Service directional assembly.
163 10 The General Service sign legends may be either symbols or word messages.

164 **Standard:**
165 11 **Except as noted below, symbols and word message General Service legends shall not be**
166 **intermixed on the same sign.**
167 12 **The Pharmacy (D9-20) sign shall only be used to indicate the availability of a pharmacy that is**
168 **open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and**
169 **that is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system. The D9-20 sign shall have**
170 **a 24 HR (D9-20aP) plaque mounted below it.**
171 13 **Use of the Hospital (D9-2) sign or the HOSPITAL (D9-13aP) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) shall be**
172 **limited to facilities that operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

173 Option:
174 14 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) sign (see Figure 2I-1 and Paragraph 20 of this Section)
175 may be used for facilities that provide emergency medical care but do not operate on a full-time basis.

176 Support:
177 15 Formats for displaying different combinations of these services are described in Section 2I.03.

178 Option:
179 16 If the distance to the next point at which services are available is 10 miles or more, a Next Services
180 Advance (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the General Service sign.

181 Guidance:
182 16a The parking symbol of a white P on a blue background enclosed in a circular white border
183 (minimum 24 inch) should be used at the entrance of an off-street, publicly accessible parking area.

184 Option:
185 **[Some of this text was moved from Section 2D-47, which is proposed for removal]**
186 16b The Parking (D9-XX) sign (see Figure 2I-1), with accompanying Advanced Turn and Direction
187 Arrow Auxiliary signs, may be installed on approach routes to show the direction to nearby publicly
188 accessible parking areas. For large parking areas, the Parking (D9-XX) sign may be supplemented with a
189 parking facility name or logo and may include a changeable message sign element showing the number of
190 available spaces and/or parking fee with a letter height for numeric digits of at least six inches.

191 16c The Parking (D9-XX) sign may be supplemented by an educational plaque placed below the D9-XX
192 sign.

193 17 The International Symbol of Accessibility (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used beneath
194 General Service signs where paved ramps and rest room facilities accessible to, and usable by, persons
195 with disabilities are provided.

196 Guidance:

197 18 *When the D9-6 sign is used in accordance with Paragraph 16 of this Section, and van-accessible*
198 *parking is available at the facility, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (D9-6P) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) should be*
199 *mounted below the D9-6 sign.*

200 Option:

201 19 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used as needed to
202 indicate the availability of facilities designed for the use of dumping wastes from recreational vehicle
203 holding tanks.

204 20 The Litter Container (D9-4) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be placed in advance of roadside turn-outs or
205 rest areas, unless it distracts the driver's attention from other more important regulatory, warning, or
206 directional signs.

207 21 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to identify
208 medical service facilities that have been included in the Emergency Medical Services system under a
209 signing policy developed by the State and/or local highway agency.

210 **Standard:**

211 22 **The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall not be used to identify services other than**
212 **qualified hospitals, ambulance stations, and qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment**
213 **centers. If used, the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall be supplemented by a sign or**
214 **plaque, as provided in Paragraph 22 of this Section, identifying the type of service provided.**

215 Option:

216 23 The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may be used above the HOSPITAL (D9-13aP) plaque
217 or above a plaque with the legend AMBULANCE STATION (D9-13bP), EMERGENCY MEDICAL
218 CARE (D9-13cP), or TRAUMA CENTER (D9-13dP). The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign
219 may also be used to supplement Telephone (D9-1), Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3) (see Figure 2I-8), or
220 POLICE (D9-14) signs.

221 **Standard:**

222 24 **The legend EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE shall not be used for services other than**
223 **qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers.**

224 *Guidance:*

225 25 *Each State should develop a policy for the implementation of the Emergency Medical Services*
226 *symbol sign.*

227 26 *The State should consider the following guidelines in the preparation of its policy:*

228 A. **AMBULANCE**

229 1. *24-hour service, 7 days per week.*

230 2. *Staffed by two State-certified persons trained at least to the basic level.*

231 3. *Vehicular communications with a hospital emergency department.*

232 4. *Operator should have successfully completed an emergency-vehicle operator training course.*

233 B. **HOSPITAL**

234 1. *24-hour service, 7 days per week.*

235 2. *Emergency department facilities with a physician (or emergency care nurse on duty within*
236 *the emergency department with a physician on call) trained in emergency medical procedures*
237 *on duty.*

238 3. *Licensed or approved for definitive medical care by an appropriate State authority.*

239 4. *Equipped for radio voice communications with ambulances and other hospitals.*

240 C. **Channel 9 Monitored**

241 1. *Provided by either professional or volunteer monitors.*

242 2. *Available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.*

243 3. *The service should be endorsed, sponsored, or controlled by an appropriate government*
244 *authority to guarantee the level of monitoring.*