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**National Committee on
Uniform Traffic Control Devices**

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**National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
GMI SIGNS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Guide and Motorist Information Signs
Technical Committee**
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: January 19, 2012
TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: March 10, 2012
GMI APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSORS: June 20, 2012
COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: June 21, 2012

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TOPIC: Review of 2009 MUTCD Standards

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**AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2J-09 Specific Service Trailblazer
Signs**

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DISCUSSION/QUESTION:

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Following the publication of the Final Rule that issued the 2009 MUTCD, FHWA asked that the NCUTCD, through its technical committees, review the text with respect to the Standards, Guidance, and Options included therein. The GMI Signs Technical Committee reviewed each of the applicable sections, resulting in numerous recommendations submitted as sponsor ballots.

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The ballot item described herein proposes to change Section 2J.09 paragraph 5 from Standard to Guidance as there is no definitive evidence to support this limit. It also appears to be counterintuitive to limit the trailblazer signs in this manner when the highway and ramp signs include up to six panels.

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RECOMMENDATION: The GMI Signs Technical Committee recommends the following.

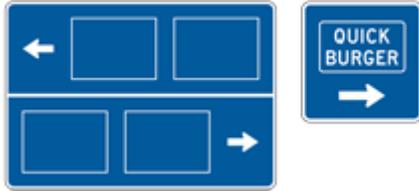
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Section 2J.09 Specific Service Trailblazer Signs

39 Support:
40 01 Specific Service trailblazer signs (see [Figure 2J-5](#)) are guide signs with one to four
41 logo sign panels that display business identification and directional information for
42 services and for eligible attractions. Specific Service trailblazer signs are installed along
43 crossroads for facilities that have logo sign panels displayed along the main roadway and
44 ramp, and that require additional vehicle maneuvers.

45 **[Figure 2J-5](#) Examples of Specific Service Trailblazer Signs**

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



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47 **Standard:**

48 02 Specific Service trailblazer signs shall be installed along crossroads where the
49 route to the business requires a direction change, where it is questionable as to
50 which roadway to follow, or where additional guidance is needed. Where it is not
51 feasible or practical to install Specific Service trailblazer signs to such businesses,
52 those businesses shall not be considered eligible for signing from the ramp and main
53 roadway. A Specific Service trailblazer sign shall not be required at the point where
54 the business is visible from the roadway and its access is readily apparent.

55 *Guidance:*

56 03 If used, a Specific Service trailblazer sign should be located a maximum of 500 feet in
57 advance of any required turn.

58 **Standard:**

59 04 The location of other traffic control devices shall take precedence over the
60 location of a Specific Service trailblazer sign.

61 ***Guidance:***

62 05 When used, each Specific Service trailblazer sign or sign assembly **shall** ~~should~~
63 **shall** be limited to no more than ~~four~~ **six** logo sign panels. The logo sign panels on
64 Specific Service trailblazer signs shall be duplicates of those displayed on the Specific
65 Service ramp signs.

66 06 Appropriate legends, such as directional arrows or the word message NEXT
67 RIGHT or SECOND RIGHT, shall be displayed with the logo sign panel to provide
68 proper guidance. The directional legend and border shall be white and shall be
69 displayed on a blue background.

70 Option:
71 07 Specific Service trailblazer signs may contain various types of services on a single
72 sign or on a sign assembly.

73 08 Specific Service trailblazer signs may be placed farther from the edge of the road than
74 other traffic control signs.

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76 **January 2012**

77 GMI Signs Technical Committee Vote: For: 23
78 Against: 3
79 Abstentions: 0

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81 **June 20, 2012**

82 **GMI Signs Technical Committee Vote: For: 17**
83 **Against: 0**
84 **Abstentions: 1**

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86 **Sponsor comments reviewed and modifications to retain shall condition and**
87 **consistency (four vs six panels) with other parts of the MUTCD accepted by GMI.**

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89 **June 21, 2012**

90 **Council Vote:**

91 **0 Opposed, 1 Abstention, 36 For – Motion passed.**