



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Item No.: 25A-TTC-02

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

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Temporary Traffic Control Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 25A-TTC-02
TOPIC: Relocate Late Merge Section
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: TTC Task Force #1 / TTC Task Force #10 – Chapter 6N
**AFFECTED SECTIONS
OF MUTCD:** 6G.07, 6H.08, 6N.19

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by TTC TC: 01/09/2025, 06/11/2025
Approved by NCUTCD Council: 06/12/2025

This is a recommended change to the MUTCD that has been approved by the NCUTCD Council. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. It 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 Late Merge section is recommended to be relocated from Section 6N.19 to a new section after Section 6H.08 in Chapter 6H TTC Warning Signs.

DISCUSSION:

The Late Merge section is recommended to be relocated under a new section in Chapter 6H as Section 6H.08 Merge Here Take Turns, which is a key warning sign involved with Late Merge. The figure for Late Merge is also proposed to move from Section 6N.19 to Section 6H so it is all located together in Part 6.

Through 24B-TTC-01, 24B-TTC-02, 24B-TTC-03, 25B-TTC-01, and this document, the content in Chapter 6N is recommended to be relocated to a variety of other Chapters and Sections and Chapter 6N is recommended to be removed in its entirety.

RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:

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].

PART 6. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL

CHAPTER 6G. TTC ZONE REGULATORY SIGNS

Table 6G-1. Temporary Traffic Control Zone Regulatory Sign and Plaque Sizes

[Only a few sample lines of Table 6G-1 shown for reference.]

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway	Minimum
Stay in Lane	R4-9	6G.07	24x30	36x48	-
Stay in Lane to Merge Point	R4-9a	6G.07	36x48	36x48	-
Do Not Enter	R5-1	6G.02	30x30	36x36	-

Section 6G.07 STAY IN LANE Signs (R4-9 and R4-9a)

[Relocated in 24A-TTC-07.]

Option:

01 A STAY IN LANE (R4-9) sign (see Figure 6G-1) may be used ~~where a~~ on multi-lane highways ~~shift has been incorporated as part of the TTC on a highway~~ to direct road users to stay in their lane until conditions permit shifting to another lane ~~around road work that occupies part of the roadway on a multi-lane highway.~~

Guidance:

01a If a STAY IN LANE sign is used, it should be accompanied by solid white lines to discourage or solid double white lines to prohibit lane changing (see Section 3B.06).

02 A STAY IN LANE TO MERGE POINT (R4-9a) sign (see Figure 6G-1) should be used during ~~late merge~~ Late Merge operations (see Section ~~6N.19~~ 6H.08a) to direct traffic to use all available lanes until the merge point is reached.

CHAPTER 6H. TTC ZONE WARNING SIGNS

Table 6H-1. Temporary Traffic Control Zone Warning Sign and Plaque Sizes

[Only a few sample lines of Table 6H-1 shown.]

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway	Minimum
Lane Ends	W9-1,2	6H.01	36x36	48x48	30x30
Merge Here Take Turns	W9-2a	6N.19 6H.08a	36x48	36x48	-
Interior Lane Shift Ahead	W9-3	6H.07	36x36	48x48	30x30

Section 6H.08 Lane Ends Signs (W4-2 and W9-2a)

Option:

01 The Lane Ends (W4-2) sign (see Figure 6H-1) may be used to warn drivers of the reduction in the number of lanes for moving motor vehicle traffic in the direction of travel on a multi-lane roadway.

Guidance:

~~02 The MERGE HERE TAKE TURNS (W9-2a) sign (see Figure 6H-1) should be used to identify the merge point at which vehicles from alternate lanes take turns merging during Late Merge applications (see Section 6N.19).~~

[The following is a new section that is populated with content moved from Sections 6H.08 and 6N.19. Only modifications to Section 6N.19 are indicated.]

Section 6H.08a MERGE HERE TAKE TURNS Sign (W9-2a)

[Paragraph 01 is moved from Section 6H.08 P02. No changes otherwise.]

Guidance:

01 The MERGE HERE TAKE TURNS (W9-2a) sign (see Figure 6H-1) should be used to identify the merge point at which vehicles from alternate lanes take turns merging during Late Merge applications.

[Paragraphs 02-06 are moved from Section 6N.19.]

Support:

02 The Late Merge is designed to use all available lanes until the merge point is reached at the lane closure taper rather than merging as soon as possible into the open lane. The Late Merge addresses many of the challenges that are associated with traffic operations in advance of lane closures at TTC zones such as queue length, capacity, and driver satisfaction.

Option:

03 Late Merge systems may consist of static or portable changeable message signs.

Guidance:

Static Late Merge signing should consist of the STAY IN LANE TO MERGE POINT (~~R9-4a~~ [R4-9a](#)¹) sign ([see Section 6G.07](#)) and the MERGE HERE TAKE TURNS (W9-2a) sign (see Figure ~~6N-1~~ [6H-2](#)).

Option:

The following messages may be used on changeable message signs at an upstream location during the Late Merge application:

- A. "STAY IN YOUR LANE/MERGE AHEAD"
- B. "STAY IN YOUR LANE/MERGE AHEAD XX MILES"
- C. "USE BOTH LANES/TO MERGE POINT"
- D. "USE BOTH LANES/STOPPED TRAFFIC AHEAD"
- E. "SLOW TRAFFIC AHEAD/USE BOTH LANES"

The following messages are typically used on changeable message signs at the merge point during the Late Merge application:

- A. "TAKE YOUR TURN/MERGE HERE"
- B. "MERGE HERE/TAKE TURNS"

¹ Known error. From MUTCD website: Paragraph 3: The reference to "R9-4a" should be change to "R4-9a."

CHAPTER 6N. TYPES OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL ZONE ACTIVITIES

[The following section (Section 6N.19) is to be relocated as a new section after Section 6H.08a.]

Section 6N.19 Late Merge

Support:

01—The Late Merge is designed to use all available lanes until the merge point is reached at the lane closure taper rather than merging as soon as possible into the open lane. The Late Merge addresses many of the challenges that are associated with traffic operations in advance of lane closures at TTC zones such as queue length, capacity, and driver satisfaction.

Option:

02—Late Merge systems may consist of static or portable changeable message signs.

Guidance:

03—Static Late Merge signing should consist of the *STAY IN LANE TO MERGE POINT (R9-4a)* sign and the *MERGE HERE TAKE TURNS (W9-2a)* sign (see Figure 6N-1).

Option:

04—The following messages may be used on changeable message signs at an upstream location during the Late Merge application:

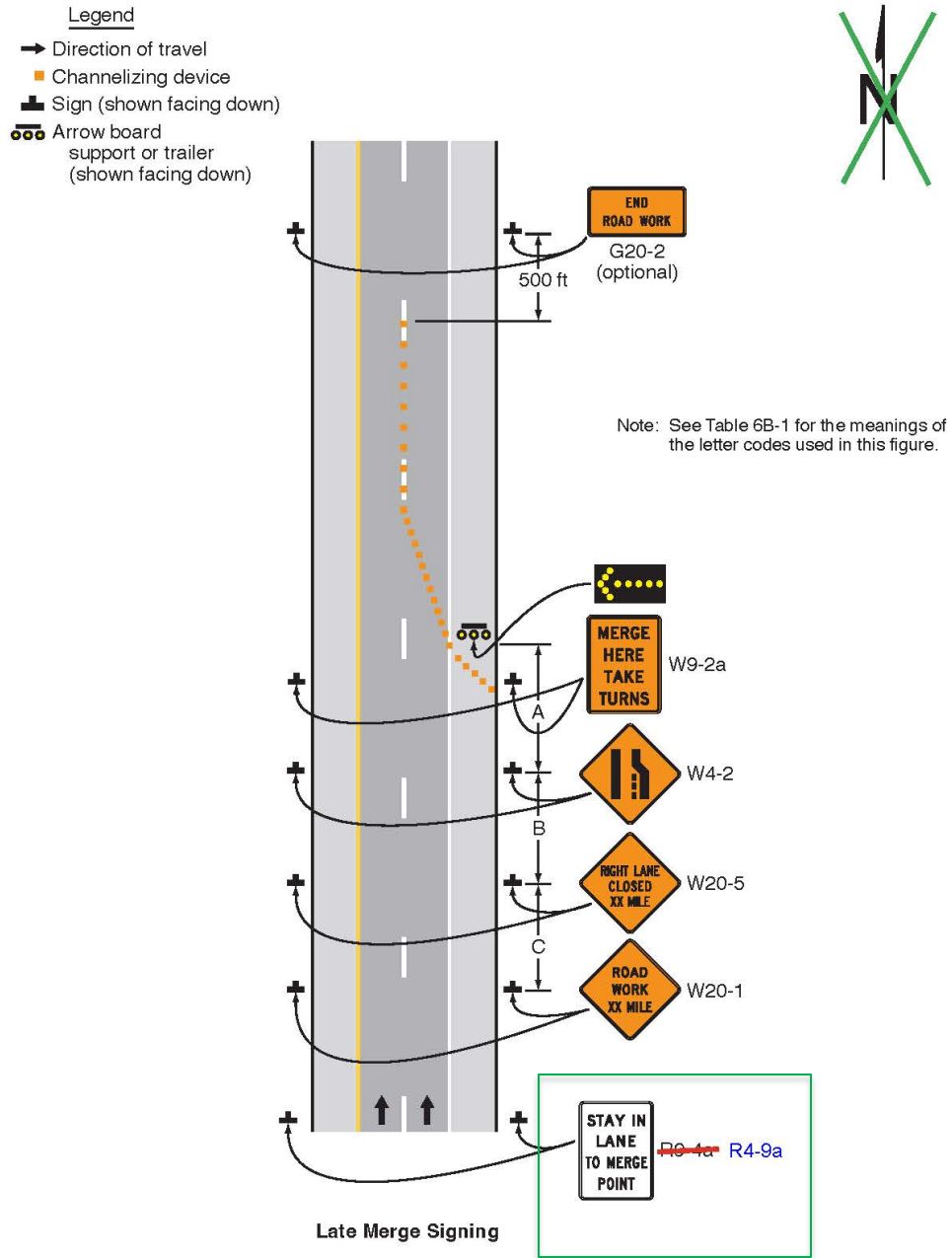
- A. “STAY IN YOUR LANE/MERGE AHEAD”
- B. “STAY IN YOUR LANE/MERGE AHEAD XX MILES”
- C. “USE BOTH LANES/TO MERGE POINT”
- D. “USE BOTH LANES/STOPPED TRAFFIC AHEAD”
- E. “SLOW TRAFFIC AHEAD/USE BOTH LANES”

05—The following messages are typically used on changeable message signs at the merge point during the Late Merge application:

- A. “TAKE YOUR TURN/MERGE HERE”
- B. “MERGE HERE/TAKE TURNS”

Figure 6N-1 6H-2. Late Merge

[North arrow deletion approved by Council in 24A-TTC-03]



² Known error. From MUTCD website: The designation "R9-4a" should be changed to "R4-9a."