



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0348**

**INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN No. 07-03**

**REGARDING ADVANCE GUIDE SIGNS AND EXIT DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ON  
TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL NOTES TO BE ADDED TO  
PLANS**

**Effective immediately**, the designer shall include advance guide signs and exit directional signs (green and white signs) on all phases of the traffic control plan for projects on access controlled highways including interchange cross streets. Advance guide signs and exit directional signs should also be shown on the traffic control plan on access controlled resurfacing projects when the traffic control phasing requires the placement of temporary pavement markings which conflict with directional signs or requires directional signs to be relocated or adjusted. It will be the designer's responsibility to prepare any required traffic control base sheets for all phases showing the layout and location of all directional and guide signs. Supplemental signing is not required to be shown.

Existing signs should be used as part of the traffic control plan for as long as possible throughout the different construction phases provided signs are located in accordance with MUTCD and does not provide inaccurate information. The most common conflict of existing signing with new construction occurs when overhead guide signs with down arrows or diagrammatic signs displaying lane lines are over lanes that are closed during certain construction phases. Once existing signs cannot be used at the original location, the designer should attempt to relocate the existing sign or place the permanent sign. If relocation or placement of the permanent sign is not feasible, a new temporary advance guide sign or exit directional sign shall be shown on the traffic control plan for the affected construction phase and for any other construction phase the sign is needed. Sign location shall conform to the MUTCD. Sign size should be the same as the sign removed if feasible. There shall be at least one temporary advance directional and temporary exit directional for each exit on the project.

For signs located on overhead structures, the designer should contact the Signing Section of the Design Division Signal and Signing Office for additional guidance.

The following guidance should be used when it is necessary to install temporary exit directional signs or temporary advanced guide signs. The designer should contact the Signing Section of the Design Division Signal and Signing Office for any additional technical questions or guidance required.

1. In the event it is not feasible to replace an exit directional sign with the existing sign size, the new sign shall be 48" x 96", 0.100" sheet aluminum. The letters will be minimum 8 inch "D" (all capital) letters and there will be a 3/4" border with a 2" radius. The color will be a reflective green background with a reflective white copy. The supports will be included in the sq. ft. of the sign face as it is with other construction signs.
2. The information on exit directional signs should be the same as the information on the existing signs that were removed. There shall be no more than four lines of copy on these signs. The layout of these signs should look as close to the existing as possible.
3. On advanced guide signs; the first line shall be the exit number for the interchange (i.e. EXIT 234), the second line will be the first destination (i.e. OLD HICKORY BLVD), the third line will be the second (i.e. MADISON), the fourth line will be NEXT RIGHT (Center all lines of copy). These signs should be located no closer than one half mile from the exit directional sign.
4. The exit directional sign shall have the same exit number and destinations as the advance guide but in lieu of NEXT RIGHT there will be a type "B" arrow at a 45 degree angle to the right. (Center all lines of copy.) These signs should be located at the beginning of the taper for the appropriate exit ramp.
5. If an interchange has a TN. (TN-6a -TN-6d) or U.S. (M1-4) route shield on the directional signing, then a shield and if needed a cardinal direction (M3-1 – M3-4) shield, will be show mounted to the left support under both the advance and exit directional signs.
6. If more lines of copy are needed, then the designer can add a 24" x 96" or another 48"x 96" sheet of aluminum to the bottom of the first sign but the size shall not be larger than a total of 96"x96".
7. Removal of existing signs shall be paid for under item number 713-15, Removal of Signs, Posts, and Footings, Lump Sum. New signs shall be paid for under item number 712-06.10, New Signs (Construction), per S.F. Design Managers should contact the construction office to have item numbers assigned when the traffic control plan involves relocating existing signs.

One set of traffic control plans shall be sent to the Signing Section of the Design Division Signal and Signing Office a minimum of twelve weeks prior to the construction field review for review when advance guide signs or exit directional signs are included in the traffic control plan. For resurfacing projects, plans should be sent as soon as possible. **No other traffic control plans shall be sent for review.**

**The following five (5) notes are to be placed in the general notes on all access controlled and interstate projects and on access controlled and interstate resurfacing projects when the traffic control phasing requires placement of temporary pavement markings which conflict with directional signs or requires directional signs to be relocated or adjusted:**

- A. ON ALL ACCESS CONTROLLED AND INTERSTATE RECONSTRUCTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL UTILIZE ALL EXISTING DIRECTIONAL SIGNING FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THESE EXISTING SIGNS CAN BE MOVED USING TEMPORARY SUPPORTS AS NEEDED. AS SOON AS THESE EXISTING DIRECTIONAL SIGNS COME DOWN PERMANENTLY, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL HAVE UP AT LEAST ONE NEW TEMPORARY "ADVANCE GUIDE SIGN" AND ONE NEW TEMPORARY "EXIT DIRECTIONAL SIGN" AT ALL EXIT RAMPS. THESE SIGNS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED WITHIN CLEAR VIEW OF THE PUBLIC ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY AND SHALL BE REPLACED IF DAMAGED, DURING ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION, AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.
- B. THE SIZE OF THESE NEW TEMPORARY SIGNS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE MESSAGE. THE MESSAGE SHALL BE THE SAME AS THE EXISTING SIGN THAT THESE NEW TEMPORARY SIGNS WILL BE REPLACING. THE LETTER SIZE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 8 INCH, "D" UPPER CASE LETTER. THE DIRECTIONAL ARROW WILL BE A "B" ARROW AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE (SAME ANGLE AS THE EXISTING ARROW). THE MATERIAL SHALL BE 0.100 INCH SHEET ALUMINUM; THE COLOR SHALL BE A REFLECTIVE GREEN BACKGROUND WITH REFLECTIVE WHITE COPY.
- C. ALL WORK AND MATERIAL TO MAKE THESE NEW TEMPORARY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ALONG WITH ADEQUATE SUPPORTS AND TO MOVE THEM AS NEEDED DURING EACH PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION WILL BE PAID FOR UNDER ITEM NO. (Designer to add appropriate 712-series item number), AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.
- D. SOME OF THESE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WILL NEED AN INTERSTATE, U.S., OR A STATE HIGHWAY SHIELD, A CARDINAL DIRECTION, AND A DIRECTION ARROW TO ACCOMPANY THE DIRECTIONAL SIGN. THESE SIGNS SHALL BE MOUNTED BELOW THE DIRECTIONAL SIGN.
- E. ALL EXISTING "EMERGENCY REFERENCE MARKERS" AND "HOSPITAL SIGNS" SHALL BE MAINTAINED WITHIN FULL VIEW OF THE MOTORING PUBLIC THROUGHOUT ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION. ALL WORK IN MOVING AND TEMPORARY SUPPORTS SHALL BE PAID FOR UNDER ITEM NO. (Designer to add appropriate 712-series item number).

**Designers should add the following note to the general notes on access control and interstate projects with existing “LOGO” signs:**

WHEN “LOGO” SIGNS ARE ON ACCESS CONTROLLED AND INTERSTATE RECONSTRUCTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THESE SIGNS IN FULL VIEW TO THE MOTORING PUBLIC DURING ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE SIGN FACE IF IT IS DAMAGED. ALL WORK IN MOVING THESE “LOGO” SIGNS AND THE TEMPORARY SUPPORTS ARE TO BE PAID FOR UNDER ITEM NO. (Designer to add appropriate 712-series item number), AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER. THE SUPPORTS FOR THE FINAL LOCATION OF THESE SIGNS WILL BE PAID FOR UNDER OTHER ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION.

**Designers should add the following note to non-access controlled projects:**

WHEN EXISTING “TOURIST ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS” (TODS) ARE ON NON-ACCESS CONTROLLED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THESE SIGNS IN FULL VIEW TO THE MOTORING PUBLIC DURING ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION. ALL WORK IN MOVING THESE “TODS” AND TEMPORARY SUPPORTS ARE TO BE PAID FOR UNDER INEM NO. (Designer to add appropriate 712-series item number) AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER. NEW SUPPORTS AND SIGN FACE FOR FINAL LOCATION WILL BE PAID FOR UNDER OTHER ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION.

**This bulletin voids Instructional Bulletin 06-16.**

Original signed by Jeff C. Jones

Jeff C. Jones, C. E. Director  
Design Division

JCJ:MA:ma  
February 09, 2007