



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

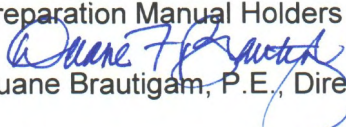
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ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

ROADWAY DESIGN BULLETIN 12-17

DATE: September 6, 2012

TO: District Design Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers, Plans Preparation Manual Holders

FROM:  Duane Brautigam, P.E., Director of Design

CC: Brian Blanchard, Tom Byron

SUBJECT: Use of Overhead Signs on Freeways and Expressways

BACKGROUND:

The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) denotes areas where Overhead signs are required. Section 2A.17 of the MUTCD also lists thirteen optional conditions where overhead signs have value on freeways and expressways. This bulletin is intended to specify the conditions when overhead signs shall be required. Locations other than those required by the MUTCD or noted below shall utilize ground mounted signs.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

Overhead signs shall be used for freeway and expressway Exit Direction signs when any of the following conditions exists:

1. Interchange Spacing \leq 3 Miles
2. Left Exits on Freeways
3. Three or More Through Lanes (When Determined by the District Design Engineer to be Appropriate)

Overhead signs shall be used for freeway and expressway Advance Guide signs when any of the following conditions exists:

1. Interchange Spacing \leq 3 Miles
2. Left Exits on Freeways
3. Freeway to Freeway Ramps (1/2 mile and 2 mile, 1 mile required by MUTCD)

This bulletin is not intended to restrict the use of overhead signs where there is insufficient space for post mounted signs or where there is restricted sight distance.

Overhead advance guide signs shall be placed over the shoulder with the edge of the sign aligned with the edge of the roadway unless otherwise shown in the MUTCD. Overhead exit signs shall extend over the ramp. If a barrier is present to protect another hazard, the upright should be located near the back of the barrier with proper setback for barrier performance.

DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION:

These requirements may be implemented immediately on all projects LET prior to March 2013 at the discretion of the District. These changes are required for all projects with LET dates after March 1, 2013.

CONTACTS:

For design related issues, contact: Chester Henson at 850-414-4117 or Chester.Henson@dot.state.fl.us