

## CHAPTER 2F. SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGNS

### Section 2F.01 Eligibility

#### **Standard:**

**Specific Service signs shall be defined as guide signs that provide road users with business identification and directional information for services and for eligible attractions.**

#### Guidance:

The use of Specific Service signs should be limited to areas primarily rural in character or to areas where adequate sign spacing can be maintained.

#### Option:

Where an engineering study determines a need, Specific Service signs may be used on any class of highways.

#### Guidance:

Specific Service signs should not be installed at an interchange where the road user cannot conveniently re-enter the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.

#### **Standard:**

**Eligible service facilities shall comply with laws concerning the provisions of public accommodations without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, or national origin, and laws concerning the licensing and approval of service facilities.**

**The attraction services shall include only facilities which have the primary purpose of providing amusement, historical, cultural, or leisure activities to the public.**

#### Guidance:

Distances to eligible services should not exceed 5 km (3 mi) in either direction.

#### Option:

If, within the 5 km (3 mi) limit, facilities for the services being considered are not available or choose not to participate in the program, the limit of eligibility may be extended in 5 km (3 mi) increments until one or more facilities for the services being considered chooses to participate, or until 25 km (15 mi) is reached, whichever comes first.

## Guidance:

If State or local agencies elect to provide Specific Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:

- A. To qualify for a GAS logo panel, a business should have:
  - 1. Vehicle services including gas and/or alternative fuels, oil, and water;
  - 2. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water;
  - 3. Continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week for freeways and expressways, and continuous operation at least 12 hours per day, 7 days per week for conventional roads; and
  - 4. Public telephone.
- B. To qualify for a FOOD logo panel, a business should have:
  - 1. Licensing or approval, where required;
  - 2. Continuous operations to serve three meals per day, at least 6 days per week;
  - 3. Public telephone; and
  - 4. Modern sanitary facilities.
- C. To qualify for a LODGING logo panel, a business should have:
  - 1. Licensing or approval, where required;
  - 2. Adequate sleeping accommodations;
  - 3. Public telephone; and
  - 4. Modern sanitary facilities.
- D. To qualify for a CAMPING logo panel, a business should have:
  - 1. Licensing or approval, where required;
  - 2. Adequate parking accommodations; and
  - 3. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.

E. To qualify for an ATTRACTION logo panel, a facility should have:

1. Regional significance; and
2. Adequate parking accommodations.

## **Section 2F.02 Application**

### **Standard:**

**The number of Specific Service signs along an approach to an interchange or intersection, regardless of the number of service types displayed, shall be limited to a maximum of four. In the direction of traffic, successive Specific Service signs shall be for attraction, camping, lodging, food, and gas services, in that order.**

**A Specific Service sign shall display the word message GAS, FOOD, LODGING, CAMPING, or ATTRACTION, an appropriate directional legend such as the word message EXIT XX, NEXT RIGHT, SECOND RIGHT, or directional arrows, and the related logo sign panels. No more than three types of services shall be represented on any sign or sign assembly. If three types of services are shown on one sign, then the logo panels shall be limited to two for each service (for a total of six logo panels). The legend and logo panels applicable to a service type shall be displayed such that the road user will not associate them with another service type on the same sign. No service type shall appear on more than one sign. The signs shall have a blue background, a white border, and white legends of upper-case letters, numbers, and arrows.**

### **Guidance:**

The Specific Service signs should be located to take advantage of natural terrain, to have the least impact on the scenic environment, and to avoid visual conflict with other signs within the highway right-of-way.

### **Option:**

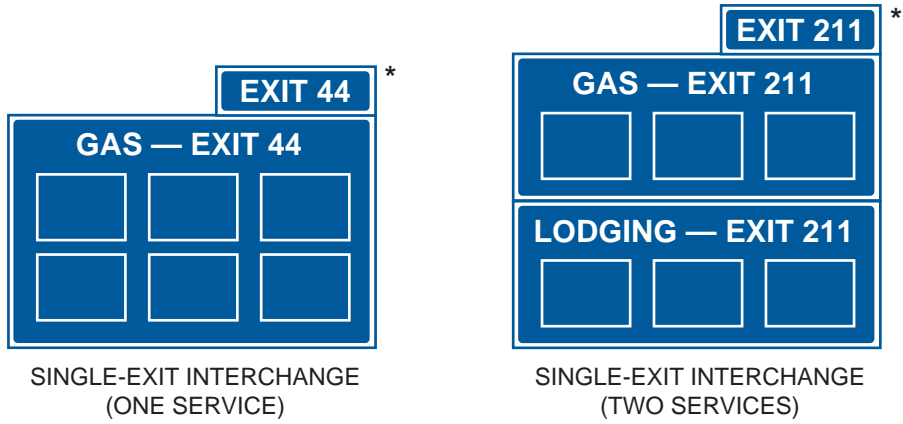
GAS, FOOD, LODGING, and CAMPING signs may be used on any class of highway.

General Service signs (see Sections 2D.44 and 2E.51) may be used in conjunction with Specific Service signs for eligible types of services that are not represented by a Specific Service sign.

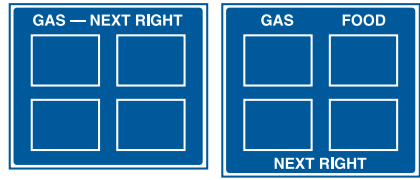
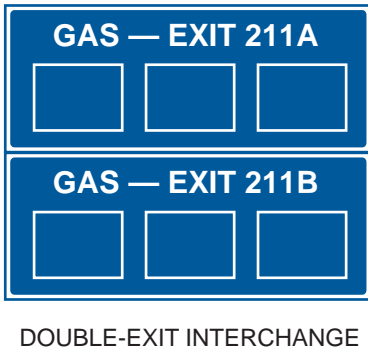
### **Support:**

Typical Specific Service signs are shown in Figure 2F-1. Typical sign locations are shown in Figure 2F-2.

**Figure 2F-1. Typical Specific Service Signs**



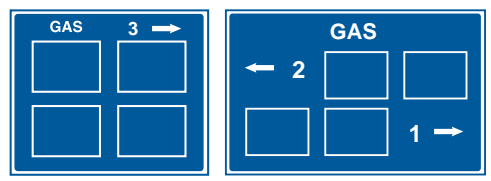
\* Exit number option (see Section 2F.07)



INTERSECTION  
 Note: Directional arrows and distance may be used when appropriate

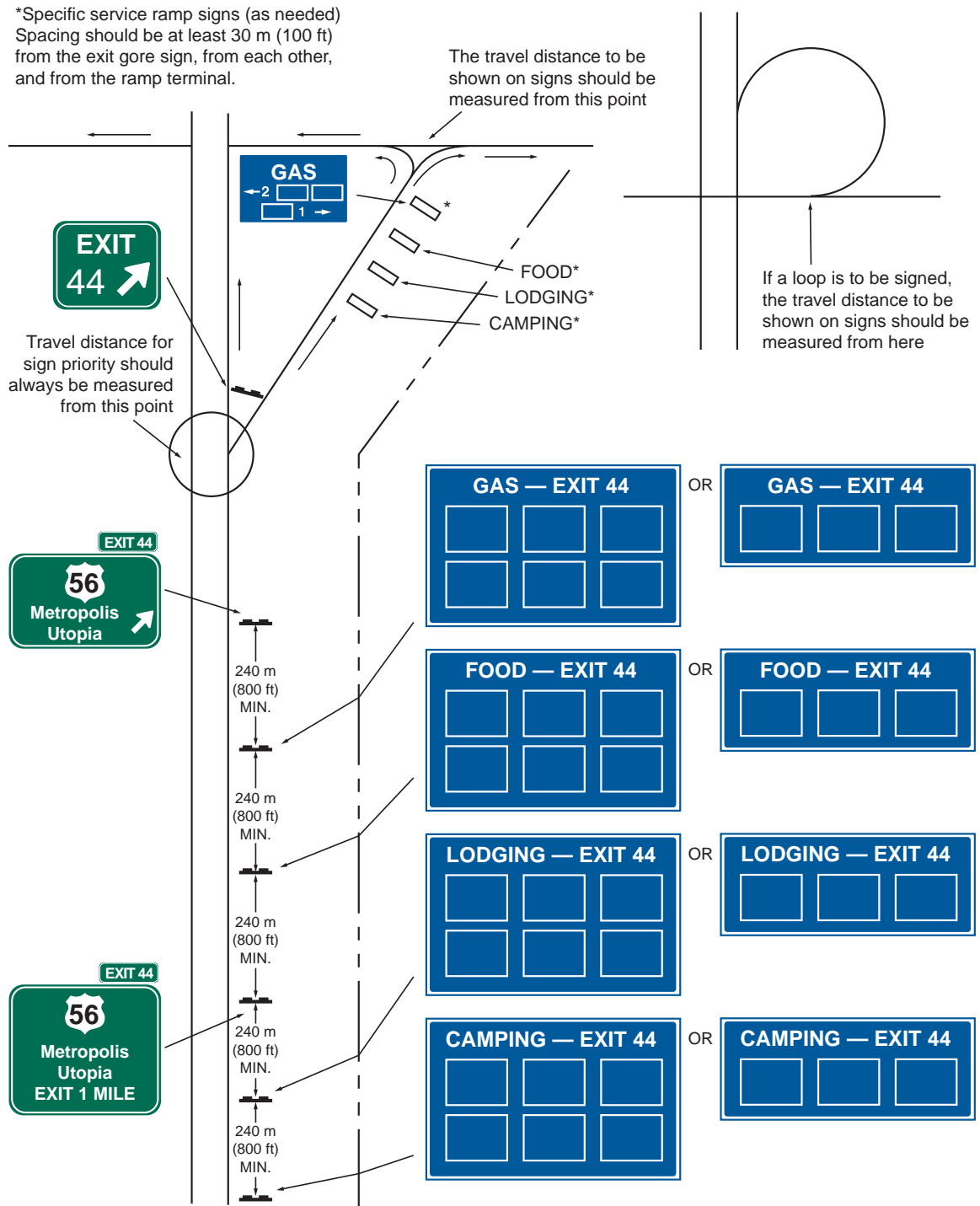


LOGO PANEL



RAMP

**Figure 2F-2. Typical Specific Service Sign Locations**



**Section 2F.03 Logos and Logo Panels****Standard:**

**A logo shall be either an identification symbol/trademark or a word message. Each logo shall be placed on a separate logo panel which shall be attached to the Specific Service sign. Symbols or trademarks used alone for a logo shall be reproduced in the colors and general shape consistent with customary use, and any integral legend shall be in proportionate size. A logo that resembles an official traffic control device shall not be used.**

**Guidance:**

A word message logo, not using a symbol or trademark, should have a blue background with white legend and border.

**Option:**

Where business identification symbols or trademarks are used alone for a logo, the border may be omitted from the logo panel.

A portion at the bottom of a GAS logo panel may be used to display the legends for alternative fuels (see Section 2E.51) available at the facility. A portion at the bottom of a FOOD logo panel may be used to display the word CLOSED and the day of the week when the facility is closed.

**Section 2F.04 Number and Size of Logos and Signs****Guidance:**

Sign sizes should be determined by the amount and height of legend and the number and size of logo panels attached to the sign. All logo panels on a sign should be the same size.

**Standard:**

**Each Specific Service sign or sign assembly shall be limited to no more than six logo panels. There shall be no more than four logo panels for one of the two service types on the same sign or sign assembly.**

**Support:**

Section 2F.08 contains information regarding Specific Service signs for double-exit interchanges.

**Standard:**

**Each logo panel attached to a Specific Service sign shall have a rectangular shape with a width longer than the height. A logo panel on signs for freeways and expressways shall not exceed 1500 mm (60 in) in width and 900 mm (36 in) in height. A logo panel on signs for conventional roads and ramps shall not exceed 600 mm (24 in) in width and 450 mm (18 in) in height. The vertical and horizontal spacing between logo panels shall not exceed 200 mm (8 in) and 300 mm (12 in), respectively.**

## Support:

Sections 2A.15, 2E.14, and 2E.15 contain information regarding borders, interline spacing, and edge spacing.

**Section 2F.05 Size of Lettering****Standard:**

**All letters and numerals on Specific Service signs, except on the logo panels, shall be a minimum height of 250 mm (10 in) for signs on freeways and expressways, and 150 mm (6 in) for signs on conventional roads and ramps.**

## Guidance:

Any legend on a symbol/trademark should be proportional to the size of the symbol/trademark.

**Section 2F.06 Signs at Interchanges****Standard:**

**The Specific Service signs shall be installed between the previous interchange and at least 240 m (800 ft) in advance of the Exit Direction sign at the interchange from which the services are available (see Figure 2F-2).**

## Guidance:

There should be at least a 240 m (800 ft) spacing between the Specific Service signs, except for Specific Service ramp signs. However, excessive spacing is not desirable. Specific Service ramp signs should be spaced at least 30 m (100 ft) from the exit gore sign, from each other, and from the ramp terminal.

### **Section 2F.07 Single-Exit Interchanges**

#### **Standard:**

**At single-exit interchanges, the name of the service type followed by the exit number shall be displayed on one line above the logo panels. At unnumbered interchanges, the directional legend NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) shall be used.**

**At single-exit interchanges, Specific Service ramp signs shall be installed along the ramp or at the ramp terminal for facilities that have logo panels displayed along the main roadway if the facilities are not readily visible from the ramp terminal. Directions to the service facilities shall be indicated by arrows on the ramp signs. Logo panels on Specific Service ramp signs shall be duplicates of those displayed on the Specific Service signs located in advance of the interchange, but shall be reduced in size.**

#### **Guidance:**

Specific Service ramp signs should include distances to the service facilities.

#### **Option:**

An exit number plaque (see Section 2E.28) may be used instead of the exit number on the signs located in advance of an interchange.

The reduced size logo panels and signs also may be installed along the crossroad.

### **Section 2F.08 Double-Exit Interchanges**

#### **Guidance:**

At double-exit interchanges, the Specific Service signs should consist of two sections, one for each exit (see Figure 2F-1).

#### **Standard:**

**At a double-exit interchange, the top section shall display the logo panels for the first exit and the bottom section shall display the logo panels for the second exit. The name of the service type and the exit number shall be displayed above the logo panels in each section. At unnumbered interchanges, the word message NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) and SECOND RIGHT (LEFT) shall be used in place of the exit number. The number of logo panels on the sign (total of both sections) or the sign assembly shall be limited to six.**



**Option:**

At a double-exit interchange, where a service is to be signed for only one exit, one section of the Specific Service sign may be omitted, or a single exit interchange sign may be used. Signs on ramps and crossroads as described in Section 2F.07 may be used at a double-exit interchange.

**Section 2F.09 Signs at Intersections****Standard:**

**Where both tourist-oriented information (Chapter 2G) and specific service information would be needed at the same intersection, the design of the tourist-oriented directional signs shall be used, and the needed specific service information shall be incorporated.**

**Guidance:**

If Specific Service signs are used on conventional roads or at intersections on expressways, they should be installed between the previous interchange or intersection and at least 90 m (300 ft) in advance of the intersection from which the services are available.

The spacing between signs should be determined on the basis of an engineering study.

Logo panels should not be displayed for a type of service for which a qualified facility is readily visible.

**Standard:**

**If Specific Service signs are used on conventional roads or at intersections on expressways, the name of each type of service shall be displayed above its logo panel(s), together with an appropriate legend such as NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) or a directional arrow on the same line.**

**Option:**

If Specific Service signs are used on conventional roads or at intersections on expressways, the NEXT RIGHT (LEFT) or other applicable directional legend or action message may be displayed below instead of above the logo panels.

Signs similar to Specific Service ramp signs as described in Section 2F.07 may be provided on the crossroad.

**Section 2F.10 Signing Policy****Guidance:**

Each highway agency that elects to use Specific Service signs should establish a signing policy that includes as a minimum, the guidelines of Section 2F.01 and at least the following criteria:

- A. Selection of eligible businesses.
- B. Distances to eligible services.
- C. The use of logo panels, legends, and signs conforming with this Manual and State design requirements.
- D. Removal or covering of logo panels during off seasons for business that operate on a seasonal basis.
- E. The circumstances, if any, under which Specific Service signs may be used in non-rural areas.
- F. Determination of the costs to businesses for initial permits, installations, annual maintenance, and removal of logo panels.

## CHAPTER 2G. TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

### Section 2G.01 Purpose and Application

Support:

Tourist-oriented directional signs are guide signs with one or more panels that display the business identification of and directional information for business, service, and activity facilities.

**Standard:**

**A facility shall be eligible for tourist-oriented directional signs only if it derives its major portion of income or visitors during the normal business season from road users not residing in the area of the facility.**

Option:

Tourist-oriented directional signs may include businesses involved with seasonal agricultural products.

**Standard:**

**When used, tourist-oriented directional signs shall be used only on rural conventional roads and shall not be used at interchanges on expressways or freeways.**

Guidance:

Where both tourist-oriented directional signs and Specific Service signs (Chapter 2F) would be needed at the same intersection, the tourist-oriented directional signs should incorporate the needed information from, and be used in place of, the Specific Service signs.

Each State that elects to use tourist-oriented directional signs should have a State policy for use as indicated in Section 2G.07.

Option:

Tourist-oriented directional signs may be used in conjunction with General Service signs (see Section 2D.44).

**Section 2G.02 Design****Standard:**

**Tourist-oriented directional signs shall have one or more panels for the purpose of displaying the business identification of and directional information for eligible facilities. Each panel shall be rectangular in shape and shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

**The content of the legend on each panel shall be limited to the business identification and directional information for not more than one eligible business, service, or activity facility. The legends shall not include promotional advertising.**

**Guidance:**

Each panel should have a maximum of two lines of legend including not more than one symbol, a separate directional arrow, and the distance to the facility shown beneath the arrow. Arrows pointing to the left or up should be at the extreme left of the sign. Arrows pointing to the right should be at the extreme right of the sign. Symbols, when used, should be to the left of the word legend or logo.

**Option:**

The tourist-oriented directional sign may have the word message TOURIST ACTIVITIES at the top of the sign.

**Standard:**

**The TOURIST ACTIVITIES word message shall be a white legend and border on a blue background. It shall be placed above and in addition to the panels.**

**Option:**

The General Service sign symbols (see Section 2D.44) and the symbols for recreational and cultural interest area signs (see Chapter 2H) may be used.

Logos for specific businesses, services, and activities may also be used. Based on engineering judgment, the hours of operation may be added on the panels.

**Standard:**

**When used, symbols and logos shall be an appropriate size (see Section 2G.04). Logos resembling official traffic control devices shall not be permitted.**

Support:

Typical tourist-oriented directional signs are shown in Figure 2G-1.

### **Section 2G.03 Style and Size of Lettering**

Guidance:

All letters and numbers on tourist-oriented directional signs, except on the logos, should be upper-case and at least 150 mm (6 in) in height. Any legend on a logo should be proportional to the size of the logo.

**Standard:**

**Design standards for upper-case letters, lower-case letters, numerals, and spacing shall be as provided in the "Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs and Pavement Markings."**

### **Section 2G.04 Arrangement and Size of Signs**

**Standard:**

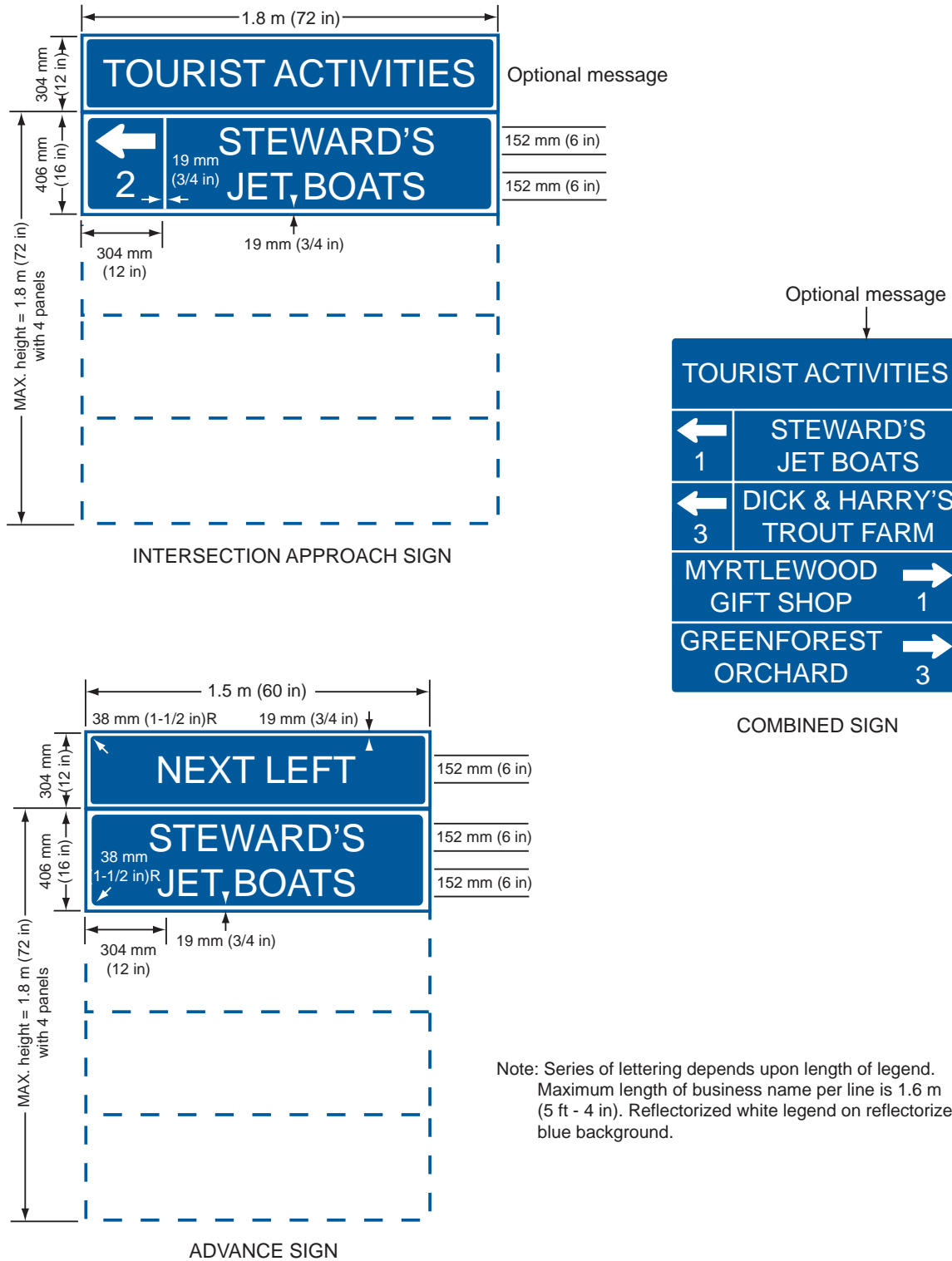
**The size of a tourist-oriented directional sign shall be limited to a maximum height of 1.8 m (6 ft). However, additional height shall be allowed to accommodate the addition of the optional TOURIST ACTIVITIES message discussed in Section 2G.02 and the directional word messages discussed in Section 2G.05.**

Guidance:

The number of intersection approach signs (one sign for tourist-oriented destinations to the left, one for destinations to the right, and one for destinations straight ahead) installed in advance of an intersection should not exceed three. The number of panels installed on each sign should not exceed four. The panels for right-turn, left-turn, and straight-ahead destinations should be on separate signs. The left-turn destination sign should be located farthest from the intersection, then the right-turn destination sign, with the straight-ahead destination sign located closest to the intersection (see Figure 2G-2). Signs for facilities in the straight-ahead direction should be considered only when there are signs for facilities in either the left or right direction.

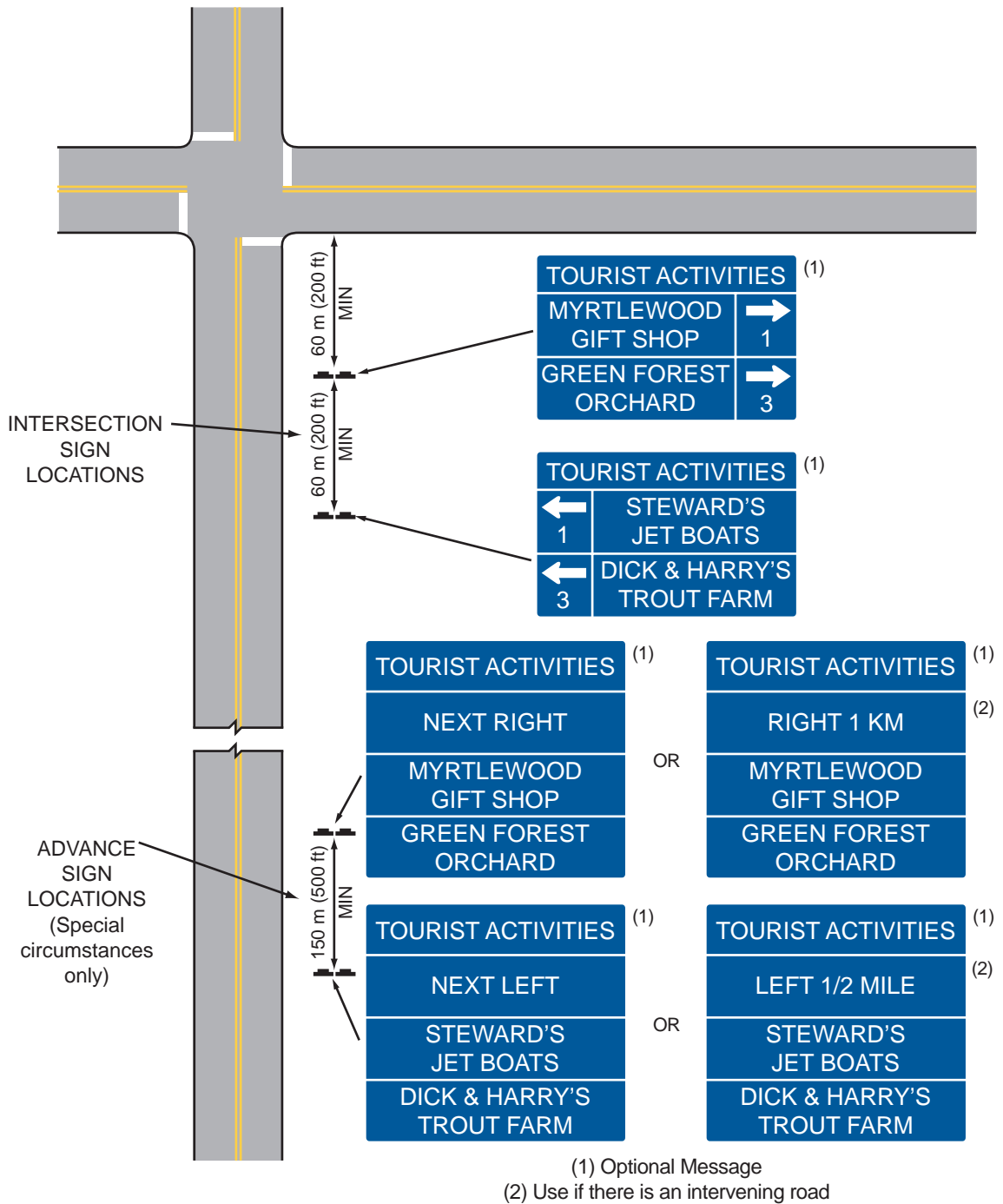
When it is appropriate to combine the left-turn and right-turn destination panels on a single sign, the left-turn destination panels should be above the right-turn destination panels (see Figure 2G-1). When there are multiple destinations in the same direction, they should be in order based on their distance from the intersection. Except as noted in

**Figure 2G-1. Typical Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs**



Note: Series of lettering depends upon length of legend.  
 Maximum length of business name per line is 1.6 m (5 ft - 4 in). ReflectORIZED white legend on reflectORIZED blue background.

**Figure 2G-2. Typical Intersection Approach Signs and Advance Signs for Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs**



the Option, a straight-ahead panel should not be combined with a sign displaying left- and/or right-turn facilities.

The panels should not exceed the size necessary to accommodate two lines of legend without crowding. Symbols and logos on a panel should not exceed the height of two lines of word legends. All panels and other parts of the sign should be the same width, which should not exceed 1.8 m (6 ft).

Option:

At intersection approaches where three or fewer facilities are shown, the left-turn, right-turn, and straight-ahead destination panels may be combined on the same sign.

### **Section 2G.05 Advance Signs**

Guidance:

Advance signs should be limited to those situations where sight distance, intersection vehicle maneuvers, or other vehicle operating characteristics require advance notification of the services.

The design of the advance sign should be identical to the design of the intersection approach sign. However, the directional arrows and distances to the facilities should be omitted. The directional word messages NEXT RIGHT, NEXT LEFT, or AHEAD should be placed on the sign above the business identification panels. The directional word messages should have the same letter height as the other word messages on the panels (see Figures 2G-1 and 2G-2).

**Standard:**

**The directional word messages shall be a white legend and border on a blue background.**

Option:

The legend RIGHT 1 KM (1/2 MILE) or LEFT 1 KM (1/2 MILE) may be used on advance signs when there are intervening minor roads.

The height required to add the directional word messages recommended for the advance sign may be added to the maximum sign height of 1.8 m (6 ft).



**Section 2G.06 Sign Locations****Guidance:**

If used, the intersection approach signs should be located at least 60 m (200 ft) in advance of the intersection. Signs should be spaced at least 60 m (200 ft) apart and at least 60 m (200 ft) from other traffic control devices.

If used, advance signs should be located approximately 1 km (0.5 mi) from the intersection with 150 m (500 ft) between these signs. In the direction of travel, the order of advance sign placement should be to show the facilities to the left first, then facilities to the right, and lastly the facilities straight ahead.

Position, height, and lateral clearance of signs should be governed by Chapters 2A and 2D except as permitted in this Section.

**Option:**

Tourist-oriented directional signs may be placed further from the edge of the road than other traffic control signs.

**Standard:**

**The location of other traffic control devices shall take precedence over the location of tourist-oriented directional signs.**

**Section 2G.07 State Policy****Standard:**

**To be eligible for tourist-oriented directional signing, facilities shall comply with applicable State or Federal laws concerning the provisions of public accommodations without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, or national origin, and laws concerning the licensing and approval of service facilities. Each State that elects to use tourist-oriented directional signs shall adopt a policy that complies with these provisions.**

**Guidance:**

Each State that elects to use tourist-oriented directional signs should have a policy that includes:

- A. A definition of tourist-oriented business, service, and activity facilities.

- B. Eligibility criteria for signs for facilities.
- C. Provision for incorporating Specific Service signs into the tourist-oriented directional signs as required.
- D. Provision for covering signs during off seasons for facilities operated on a seasonal basis.
- E. Provisions for signs to facilities that are not located on the crossroad when such facilities are eligible for signs.
- F. A definition of the immediate area. The major portion of income or visitors to the facility should come from road users not residing in the immediate area of the facility.
- G. Maximum distances to eligible facilities. The maximum distance should be 8 km (5 mi).
- H. Provision for information centers (plazas) when the number of eligible sign applicants exceeds the maximum permissible number of sign panel installations.
- I. Provision for limiting the number of signs when there are more applicants than the maximum number of signs permitted.
- J. Criteria for use at intersections on expressways.
- K. Provisions for controlling or excluding those businesses which have illegal signs as defined by the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 U.S.C. 131).
- L. Provisions for States to charge fees to cover the cost of signs through a permit system.
- M. A definition of the conditions under which the time of operation is shown.
- N. Provisions for determining if advance signs will be permitted, and the circumstances under which they will be installed.

## **CHAPTER 2H. RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS**

### **Section 2H.01 Scope**

Support:

Recreational or cultural interest areas are attractions or traffic generators that are open to the general public for the purpose of play, amusement, or relaxation. Recreational attractions include such facilities as parks, campgrounds, gaming facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

The purpose of recreation and cultural interest area signs is to guide road users to a general area and then to specific facilities or activities within the area.

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area signs that depict significant traffic generators may be used on expressway and freeways where there is direct access to these areas as discussed in Section 2H.09.

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used off the road network, as appropriate.

### **Section 2H.02 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs**

Support:

Standards for signing recreational or cultural interest areas are subdivided into two different types of signs: (1) symbol signs and (2) destination guide signs.

Guidance:

When highway agencies decide to provide recreational and cultural interest area signing, these agencies should have a policy for such signing. The policy should establish signing criteria for the eligibility of the various types of services, accommodations, and facilities. These signs should not be used where they might be confused with other traffic control signs.

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used on any road to direct persons to facilities, structures, and places, and to identify various services available to the general public. These signs may also be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing non-vehicular events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities.

**Section 2H.03 Regulatory and Warning Signs****Standard:**

All regulatory and warning signs installed on public roads and streets within recreational and cultural interest areas shall conform to the requirements of Chapters 2A, 2B, and 2C.

**Section 2H.04 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs****Standard:**

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be square or rectangular in shape and shall have a white symbol or message and white border on a brown background. The symbols shall be grouped into the following usage and series categories (see the "Standard Highway Signs" book for design details):

- A. General Information (RG Series)
- B. Motorist Services (RM Series)
- C. Accommodation Services (RA Series)
- D. Land Recreation (RL series)
- E. Water Recreation (RW Series), and
- F. Winter Recreation (RS Series)

**Support:**

Table 2H-1 contains a listing of the symbols within each series category. Drawings for these symbols are found in the "Standard Highway Signs" book.

**Option:**

Mirror images of symbols may be used where the reverse image will better convey the message.



### **Section 2H.05 Symbol Sign Sizes**

#### Guidance:

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 600 x 600 mm (24 x 24 in). Where greater visibility or emphasis is needed, larger sizes should be used. Symbol sign enlargements should be in 150 mm (6 in) increments.

Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 750 x 750 mm (30 x 30 in) when used on expressways or freeways.

#### Option:

A smaller size of 450 x 450 mm (18 x 18 in) may be used on low-speed, low-volume roadways and on non-road applications.

### **Section 2H.06 Use of Educational Plaques**

#### Guidance:

Educational plaques should accompany all initial installations of recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs. The educational plaque should remain in place for at least 3 years after the initial installation. If used, the educational plaque should be the same width as the symbol sign.

#### Option:

Symbol signs that are readily recognizable by the public may be installed without educational plaques.

#### Support:

Figure 2H-1 illustrates some typical uses of educational plaques.

### **Section 2H.07 Use of Prohibitive Slash**

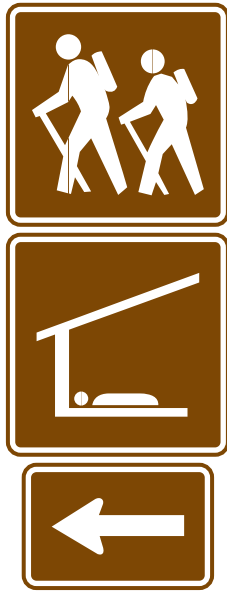
#### Standard:

**The red diagonal slash, if used on a recreational and cultural interest area sign, shall be placed from the upper left corner to the lower right corner of the sign face. Requirements for retroreflection of the red slash shall be the same as those requirements for legends, symbols, and borders.**

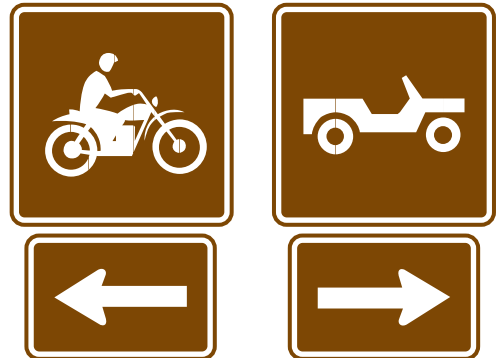
**Figure 2H-1. Typical Use of Educational Plaques, Prohibitory Slashes, and Arrows**



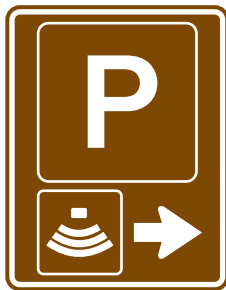
a) Directional sign with arrow



b) Directional signs with arrow



c) Directional signs with arrows



d) Directional sign with secondary symbol



e) Management symbols with prohibitive slashes and educational plaques



f) Directional sign with educational plaque and arrow

Option:

Where it is necessary to indicate a restriction within a recreational or cultural interest area, a red diagonal slash may be used to indicate that the activity is prohibited.

Support:

Figure 2H-1 illustrates some typical uses of prohibitive slashes.

### **Section 2H.08 Placement of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs**

**Standard:**

**If used, recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be placed in accordance with the general requirements contained in Chapter 2A. The symbol(s) shall be placed in the uppermost part of the sign assembly and the directional information shall be placed below the symbol(s).**

**Where the name of the recreational or cultural interest area facility or activity is shown on a general directional guide sign and a symbol is used, the symbol shall be placed below the name (see Figure 2H-2).**

**Recreational and cultural interest area symbols installed for non-road use shall be placed in accordance with the general sign position requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.**

Support:

Figure 2H-3 illustrates typical height and lateral mounting positions. Figure 2H-4 illustrates typical placement of symbol signs within a recreational or cultural interest area. Figures 2H-5 and 2H-6 illustrate some of the symbols that can be used.

Guidance:

The number of symbols used in a single sign assembly should not exceed four.

Option:

Symbols for recreational or cultural interest areas may be used as legend components for a directional sign assembly. The symbols may be used singularly, or in groups of two, three, or four on a single sign assembly (see Figures 2H-1, 2H-3, and 2H-4). Smaller-size secondary symbols (see Figure 2H-1) may be placed beneath the primary symbols, where needed.



**Figure 2H-2. Typical General Directional Guide Signs for Conventional Roads**



**Figure 2H-3. Height and Lateral Position of Signs Located Within Recreational and Cultural Interest Areas**

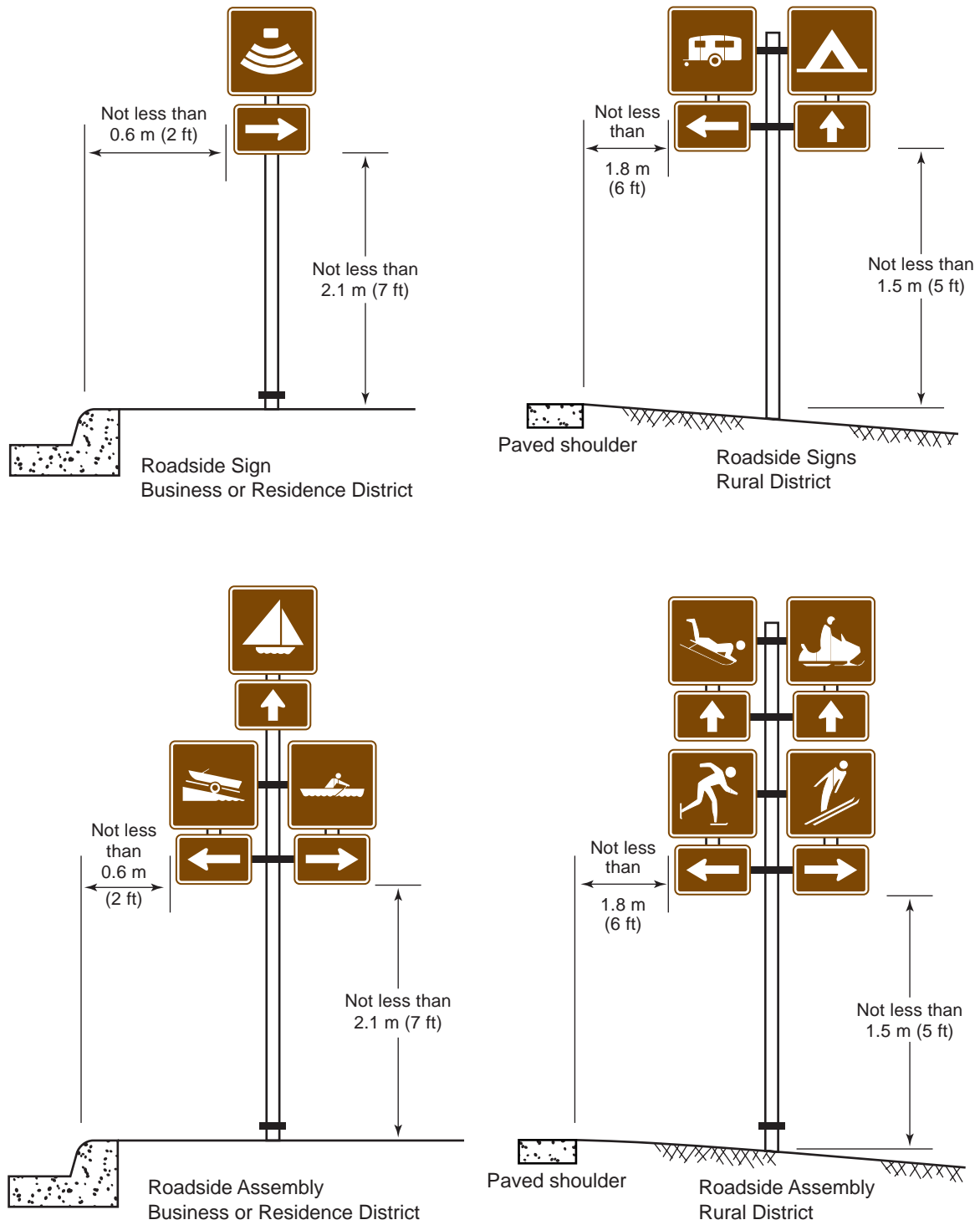
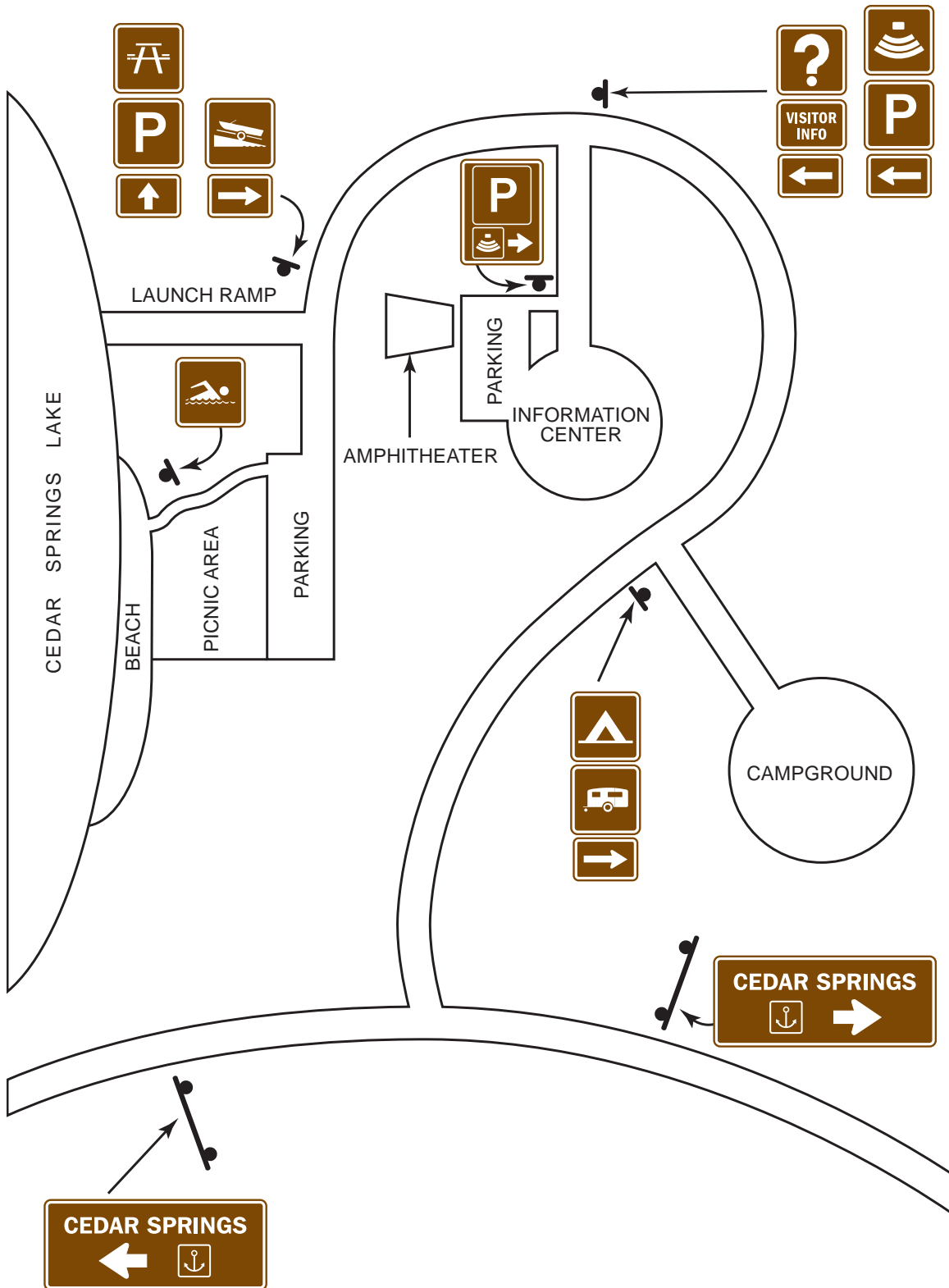


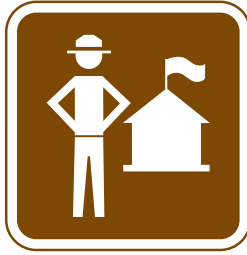
Figure 2H-4. Typical Symbol Signing Layout



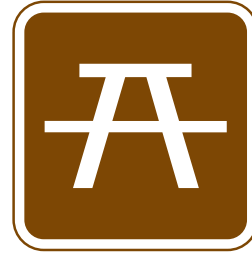
**Figure 2H-5. Modifications to Existing Symbols**



RG-130  
Litter Container



RG-170  
Ranger Station



RM-120  
Picnic Area



RA-060  
Laundry



RA-110  
Sleeping Shelter



RL-130  
Interpretive Trail  
(recommended for use  
with educational plaque)

**Figure 2H-6. New Recreation & Cultural Interest Area Symbols**



**Section 2H.09 Destination Guide Signs****Guidance:**

When recreational or cultural interest area destinations are shown on supplemental guide signs, the sign should be rectangular or trapezoidal in shape. The order of preference for use of shapes and colors should be as follows: (1) rectangular with a white legend and border on a green background; (2) rectangular with a white legend and border on a brown background; or (3) trapezoidal with a white legend and border on a brown background.

**Standard:**

**Whenever the trapezoidal shape is used, the color combination shall be a white legend and border on a brown background.**

**Option:**

White-on-brown destination guide signs may be posted at the first point where an access or crossroad intersects a highway where recreational or cultural interest areas are a significant destination along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways. White-on-brown supplemental guide signs may be used along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways to direct road users to recreational or cultural interest areas. Where access or crossroads lead exclusively to the recreational or cultural interest area, the advance guide sign and the exit direction sign may be white-on-brown.

**Standard:**

**Linear parkway-type highways that merely function as arterial connectors without providing access to recreational or cultural interest areas shall not qualify for the use of white-on-brown destination guide signs. Directional guide signs used on these highways shall conform to Chapter 2D.**

**All gore signs shall have a white legend and border on a green background. The background color of the interchange exit number panel shall match the background color of the guide sign. Design characteristics of conventional road, expressway, or freeway guide signs shall conform to Chapter 2D or 2E except as specified in this Section for color combination.**

**The advance guide sign and the Exit Direction sign shall retain the white-on-green color combination where the crossroad leads to a destination other than a recreational or cultural interest area.**

**Support:**

Figure 2H-2 illustrates destination guide signs commonly used for identifying recreational or cultural interest areas or facilities.

## CHAPTER 2I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIGNING

### Section 2I.01 Emergency Management

#### Guidance:

Contingency planning for an emergency evacuation should be considered by all State and local jurisdictions and should consider the use of all applicable roadways.

In the event of a disaster where highways that cannot be used will be closed, a successful contingency plan should account for the following elements: a controlled operation of certain designated highways, the establishment of traffic operations for the expediting of essential traffic, and the provision of emergency centers for civilian aid.

### Section 2I.02 Design of Emergency Management Signs

#### Standard:

**Emergency Management signs shall be used to guide and control highway traffic during an emergency.**

**Emergency Management signs shall not permanently displace any of the standard signs that are normally applicable.**

**Advance planning for transportation operations' emergencies shall be the responsibility of State and local authorities. The Federal Government shall provide guidance to the States as necessitated by changing circumstances.**

#### Guidance:

As conditions permit, the Emergency Management signs should be replaced or augmented by standard signs.

The background of Emergency Management signs should be retroreflective.

Because Emergency Management signs might be needed in large numbers for temporary use during an emergency, consideration should be given to their fabrication from any light and economical material that can serve through the emergency period.

#### Option:

Any Emergency Management sign may be accompanied by a standard triangular plaque for marking areas contaminated by biological and chemical warfare agents and radioactive fallout.

**Section 2I.03 EVACUATION ROUTE Sign (EM-1)****Standard:**

**The EVACUATION ROUTE (EM-1) sign shall be circular, having a minimum outside diameter of 450 mm (18 in), carrying a directional arrow and the legend EVACUATION ROUTE.**

**Option:**

An approved Emergency Management symbol may appear near the bottom of the sign with a diameter of 87 mm (3.5 in).

**Standard:**

**The legend, arrow, symbol, and border shall be white on a blue background. At least the arrow and border shall be retroreflective. The arrow designs shall include a straight vertical arrow pointing upward, a straight horizontal arrow pointing to the left or right, or a bent arrow pointing to the left or right for advance warning of a turn.**

**If used, the EVACUATION ROUTE sign, with the appropriate arrow, shall be installed 45 to 90 m (150 to 300 ft) in advance of, and at, any turn in an approved evacuation route. The sign shall also be installed elsewhere for straight-ahead confirmation where needed.**

**If used in urban areas, the EVACUATION ROUTE sign shall be mounted at the right-hand side of the roadway, not less than 2.1 m (7 ft) above the top of the curb, and at least 0.3 m (1 ft) back from the face of the curb. If used in rural areas, it shall be not less than 2.1 m (7 ft) above the pavement and 1.8 to 3 m (6 to 10 ft) to the right side of the roadway edge.**

**EVACUATION ROUTE signs shall not be placed where they will conflict with other signs. Where conflict in placement would occur between the EVACUATION ROUTE sign and a standard regulatory sign, the regulatory sign shall take precedence.**

**Option:**

In case of conflict with guide or warning signs, the Emergency Management sign may take precedence.

**Guidance:**

Placement of EVACUATION ROUTE signs should be made under the supervision of the officials having jurisdiction over the placement of other traffic signs. Coordination





EM-1  
900 mm (36 in)  
diameter



EM-2  
750 x 600 mm  
(30 x 24 in)

R1-1



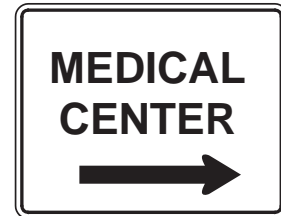
EM-3  
750 x 600 mm  
(30 x 24 in)



EM-4  
650 x 750 mm  
(26 x 30 in)



EM-5  
650 x 750 mm  
(26 x 30 in)



EM-6a  
750 x 600 mm  
(30 x 24 in)



EM-7b  
750 x 600 mm  
(30 x 24 in)

with Emergency Management authorities and agreement between contiguous political entities should occur to assure continuity of routes.

Option:

The arrow may be a separate panel attached to the face of the sign.

#### **Section 2I.04 AREA CLOSED Sign (EM-2)**

##### **Standard:**

**The AREA CLOSED (EM-2) sign shall be used to close a roadway in order to prohibit traffic from entering the area. It shall be installed on the shoulder as near as practical to the right edge of the roadway, or preferably, on a portable mounting or barricade partly or entirely in the roadway.**

Guidance:

For best visibility, particularly at night, the sign height should not exceed 1.2 m (4 ft) from the pavement to the bottom of the sign. Unless adequate advance warning signs are used, it should not be placed to create a complete and unavoidable blocked route. Where feasible, the sign should be located at an intersection that provides a detour route.

#### **Section 2I.05 TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT Sign (EM-3)**

##### **Standard:**

**The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT (EM-3) sign shall be used to designate a location where an official traffic control point has been set up to impose such controls as are necessary to limit congestion, expedite emergency traffic, exclude unauthorized vehicles, or protect the public.**

**The sign shall be installed in the same manner as the AREA CLOSED sign (see Section 2I.04), and at the point where traffic must stop to be checked.**

**The standard STOP (R1-1) sign shall be used in conjunction with the TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign. The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign shall consist of a black legend and border on a retroreflectorized white background.**

Guidance:

The TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT sign should be mounted directly below the STOP sign.

**Section 2I.06 MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED Sign (EM-4)****Option:**

The MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED (EM-4) sign may be used on highways where conditions are such that it is prudent to evacuate or traverse an area as quickly as possible.

Where an existing Speed Limit (R2-1) sign is in a suitable location, the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign may conveniently be mounted directly over the face of the speed limit sign that it supersedes.

**Support:**

Since any speed zoning would be impractical under such emergency conditions, no minimum speed limit can be prescribed by the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign in numerical terms. Where traffic is supervised by a traffic control point, official instructions will usually be given verbally, and the sign will serve as an occasional reminder of the urgent need for maintaining the proper safe speed.

**Guidance:**

The sign should be installed as needed, in the same manner as other standard speed signs.

**Standard:**

**If used in rural areas, the MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED sign shall be mounted on the right side of the road with its lower edge not less than 1.5 m (5 ft) above the pavement, 1.8 to 3 m (6 to 10 ft) from the roadway edge. If used in urban areas, the height shall be not less than 2.1 m (7 ft), and the nearest edge of the sign shall be not less than 0.3 m (1 ft) back from the face of the curb.**

**Section 2I.07 ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC Sign (EM-5)****Support:**

The intent of the ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC sign is to notify road users of the presence of the traffic control point so that those who do not have priority permits issued by designated authorities can take another route, or turn back, without making a needless trip and without adding to the screening load at the post. Local traffic, without permits, can proceed as far as the traffic control post.

**Standard:**

If used, the **ROAD (AREA) USE PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THRU TRAFFIC (EM-5)** sign shall be used at an intersection that is an entrance to a route on which a traffic control point is located.

If used, the sign shall be installed in a manner similar to that of the **MAINTAIN TOP SAFE SPEED** sign (see Section 2I.06).

**Section 2I.08 Emergency Aid Center Signs (EM-6 Series)****Standard:**

In the event of emergency, State and local authorities shall establish various centers for civilian relief, communication, medical service, and similar purposes. To guide the public to such centers a series of directional signs shall be used.

Emergency Aid Center (EM-6 series) signs shall carry the designation of the center and an arrow indicating the direction to the center. They shall be installed as needed, at intersections and elsewhere, on the right side of the roadway, at a height in urban areas of at least 2.1 m (7 ft), and not less than 0.3 m (1 ft) back from the face of the curb, and in rural areas at a height of 1.5 m (5 ft), 1.8 to 3 m (6 to 10 ft) from the roadway edge.

Emergency Aid Center signs shall carry one of the following legends, as appropriate, or others designating similar emergency facilities:

- A. **MEDICAL CENTER (EM-6a)**
- B. **WELFARE CENTER (EM-6b)**
- C. **REGISTRATION CENTER (EM-6c)**
- D. **DECONTAMINATION CENTER (EM-6d)**

**Section 2I.09 Shelter Directional Signs (EM-7 Series)****Standard:**

Shelter Directional (EM-7 Series) signs shall be used to direct the public to selected shelters that have been licensed and marked for emergency use.

**The installation of Shelter Directional signs shall conform to established highway signing standards. Where used, the signs shall not be installed in competition with other necessary highway guide, warning, and regulatory signs.**

**The Shelter Directional sign shall be a horizontal rectangle, 750 x 600 mm (30 x 24 in). The identifying word and the word SHELTER, the directional arrow, the distance to the shelter, and the border shall be black on a white background.**

Option:

The distance to the shelter may be omitted from the sign when appropriate.

Shelter Directional signs may carry one of the following legends, or others designating similar emergency facilities:

- A. EMERGENCY (EM-7a)
- B. HURRICANE (EM-7b)
- C. FALLOUT (EM-7c)
- D. CHEMICAL (EM-7d)

If appropriate, the name of the facility may be used.

The Shelter Directional signs may be installed on the Interstate Highway System or any other major highway system when it has been determined that a need exists for such signs as part of a State or local shelter plan.

The Shelter signs may be used to identify different routes to a shelter to provide for rapid movement of large numbers of persons.

Guidance:

The Shelter Directional sign should be used sparingly and only in conjunction with approved plans of State and local authorities.

As a general rule, the Shelter sign should not be posted more than 8 km (5 mi) from a shelter.

