



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

Highway Factors

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Summary of Highway Factors

- General Highway Information
- Highway Design
- Accident History
- Traffic Control Devices

General Highway Information

- Average traffic speed 70 mph
- Design speed 60 mph
- Posted speed limit 55 mph
- Motorcoach traveling 65 mph
- Average daily traffic
 - I-75 was 95,920 vehicles
 - HOV lane was 6,825 vehicles
 - HOV ramp was 500 vehicles

I-75 Design Information

- Reconstructed 1982
- Four lanes and full-time HOV lane in each direction
- HOV lanes separated from general use lanes by double line pavement markings (solid and dashed)
- HOV left-side exit ramps operated as conventional ramps until 1996

Exit Ramp Characteristics

- Left-side exit ramp
- First left HOV exit along I-75
- Approaching the accident site, roadway curves to the left
- Driver's view obstructed
- Exit ramp is short

Exit Ramp Accident History

- 9 accidents between 1997 and 2007
- 3 were fatal
- 6 of 9 involved single vehicle
- Of the 6 single-vehicle accidents, 5 occurred at night
- None of the drivers were from the Atlanta area

Conventional Left Exit



I-75 HOV Lane Separation



MUTCD Compliance Required

- Traffic Control Devices (TCDs) must comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- TCDs include signs, signals, and pavement markings
- The MUTCD provides:
 - Standards
 - Guidance
 - Options

Guide Signs for the HOV Exit

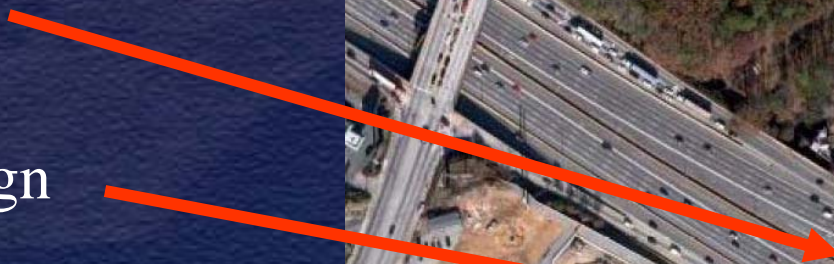
Exit 1 mile



Exit 1/2 mile



Exit arrow



Exit gore sign



Traffic Control Devices



Traffic Control Devices



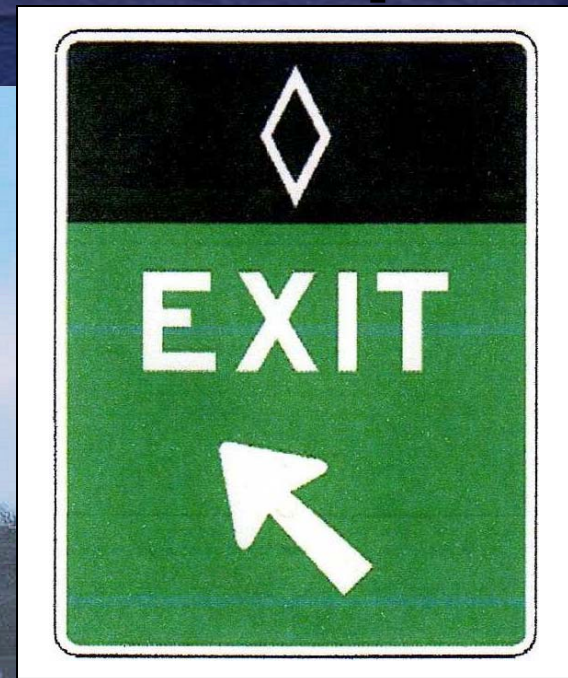
Traffic Control Devices





LEFT	 HOV LANE
 HOV EXIT Northside Dr 	 SOUTH 

Traffic Control Devices on Ramp



2007/03/02

Postaccident Changes



Stop Sign Beacon Added



Pavement Markings

- Guide line markings across direct exits can help minimize errant departures
- FHWA recommends white dashed pavement markings in taper area
- “Exit” or “Exit Only” pavement marking can also be used on ramps

Needed Improvements

- Left EXIT plaques on guide signs and implement within 5 years
- Left exit direction (arrow) sign paired with pull-through sign
- Advisory speed limit signs on exits
- Exit pavement markings
- Uniform guidance in the MUTCD



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