

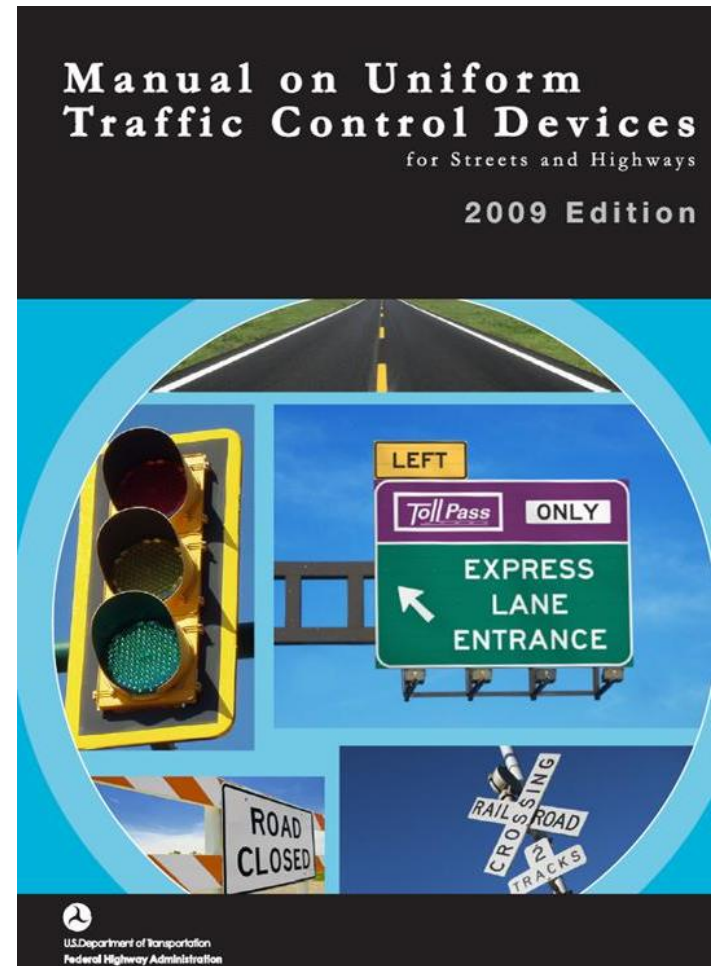
Mile Based Exit Renumbering

MassDOT Board of Directors

November 18, 2019

Background - MUTCD

- States are statutorily required to adopt the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
 - The 2009 MUTCD mandated that all states establish a mile-based exit numbering system.
- Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Delaware are the only three states remaining in non-compliance.
 - All others have either fully converted or have started conversion efforts.



Background - Massachusetts

- MassDOT has committed to FHWA to comply with mileage-based exits by January 2022.
 - Massachusetts currently utilizes a sequential exit numbering method
 - Non-compliance “could result in withdrawal of Federal-aid funds”
- The MUTCD requirement applies to all controlled access roads with exits, meaning interstates and freeways
- MassDOT owns the only roads that the requirement is applicable to.

Overview



Conversion to mile-based exit numbering system will be implemented on a route-by-route basis

- Starting in Western MA and moving eastward
- For individual routes, exit numbering conversion will take place east to west or north to south.

“Old Exit” signs will be installed at each converted exit for a minimum of two years.

Construction will begin in late Summer of 2020

Sign Design - Advance



Before



After

Sign Design – Exit Gore



Before



After

Benefits

Driver Friendly Navigation

- Allows drivers to determining distances to destinations quickly
- Miles traveled can be calculated more easily

More accurate Emergency Response

- Can improve reporting of highway incidents, resulting in better navigation of emergency services

National uniformity

- Same exit numbering scheme as a majority of the states

Reduced Maintenance Costs

- Sign numbering does not need to be changed if new interchanges are added to a route

Exception to the New Requirements

- For exits leading to the same interchange, lettered exits will be utilized (ex: exit 50a and 50b)
- Routes that currently do not have exit numbers will not have new exit numbers assigned as part of this project (Route 28, 57, and 79)
- Routes with their first exit less than 1 mile from the state line or the start of the freeway would register as Exit 1. There will be no “Exit 0”.
- Due to the length and spacing of exits, the exit numbers on the following corridors will not be changed:
 - Route 213
 - Interstate 291
 - Interstate 391
 - Lowell Connector

Construction Schedule



Conversion will generally begin with routes in Western MA and move eastward. The construction schedule will remain up-to-date on the project's website.

Public Outreach
Fall 2019 –
Spring 2020

Requests for Proposal
Spring 2020

Project Award
Summer 2020

Begin Construction
Summer 2020

Construction Complete
Spring 2021



FAQ's - Impacts

Will there be any traffic impacts?

- We anticipate only minimal impacts to traffic during construction. The public will be notified in advance of construction start and MassDOT will use electronic changeable message signs to alert motorists along the route of the pending changes.
- New exit signage will be installed during off-peak hours.

How will the project impact businesses?

- Businesses that reference existing exit numbers in their advertising or marketing materials (flyers, brochures, signs, etc.) will need to revise these materials accordingly.
- “Old Exit #” signs will be installed under this program and will remain in place for a minimum of 2 years, giving businesses and their customers time to adjust to the new exit numbers during this transition period.

What will happen with recreational and cultural interest area signs?

- MassDOT will update all recreational and cultural interest signage to reflect new exit numbering system.

FAQ's



How will the program be paid for?

- The project will be paid for through Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. HSIP funding carries a 90/10 split, which means that 90% of the project will be funded through federal funds and the remaining 10% will be funded through state highway funds.

How will I know what my exit number is changing to?

- The interactive map on the project website
- Corridor-specific handouts

Sign will not change until
late Summer of 2020



What is MassDOT doing to notify the public of this conversion?

- MassDOT is conducting an extensive public outreach campaign to notify the public of the upcoming conversion. Outreach includes in-person and online communication strategies that will give the public ample opportunity to learn about the project and ask questions prior to construction.

Public Outreach

- Legislative Briefings
- Stakeholder and Public Meetings
- Press release
- Social Media
- Mapping service providers
- Changeable Message Signs
- Project Website
- Interactive Map
- Online Meeting
- Comment Tool
- Project Video