



# Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-1-35
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 1	General
SUBJECT 35	Size of Signs

## A. Purpose

This subject provides general guidance on the sizes of signs to be used based on certain highway characteristics. **This guideline does not apply to sizes for STOP signs. There is a separate TGM guideline pertaining to the required sizes for STOP signs for roadways (TGM 2-2-5).**

## B. Definitions

For the purposes of this guideline, highways are grouped by certain characteristics into a defined highway facility:

Freeways are divided arterial highway facilities that have full control of access by means of grade separation at interchanges only.

Expressways are divided arterial highway facilities that have partial control of access, generally with grade separations at major intersections.

Conventional Highways are either divided or undivided roadway facilities that have no control of access and no grade separations at intersections.

2S is the sign size designation of conventional highway signs for single lane conventional highways or multi-lane conventional highways with a posted speed of 35 mph or less.

2M is the sign size designation of regulatory and warning signs for multi-lane conventional highways with a posted speed of 40 mph.

## C. Policy

This guideline establishes the standard sign size to be used for each defined highway facility. Signs larger than the standard size *may* be used selectively and with documentation of the specific situational reason for use of a sign larger than the standard. Whenever a sign smaller than the standard is used, the conditions such as

space or visibility constraints *should* be documented and approved by the Regional traffic engineer. The designer **shall** work with the Region Traffic Section to determine the proper sign sizes.

1. Freeways and Interstate Highways, size 5 signs, regardless of posted speed limit.
2. Expressways with posted speed limits of 65 mph, use size 5 signs. Expressways with posted speed limits of 60, 55 or 50 mph, use size 4 signs. Use size 2S signs for side road approaches or when that approach highway facility would require a larger sign size under this guideline, use the larger size.
3. On and off ramps for service interchanges, use size 2S signs. System interchange ramps, use size 5 signs.
4. Conventional highways with single lanes (all speeds) and multi lane conventional highways with a posted speed of 35 mph or less, use size 2S signs. Size 2M signs *may* also be used, at the discretion of the Region, to upsize sign sizes on single lane conventional highways or multi-lane conventional highways with a posted speed of 35 mph or less.
5. Conventional multi-lane roadways, with a posted speed of 40 mph , use size 2M regulatory and warning signs.
6. Conventional multi-lane roadways, with a posted speed of 45 mph or greater, use size 3 signs. As an option, size 2M signs *may* be used for urban conventional multi-lane roadways with posted speeds of 45 mph if there are limiting physical factors that would not make size 3 signs feasible. Some of these limiting physical factors would include: narrow terrace or median widths, close driveway spacing and close intersection spacing.
7. Size 1 signs *may* be used on streets and highways which are neither state trunk highways, nor connecting highways when there is no more than one lane of traffic in each direction, and the posted speed limit is 30 mph or less.
8. Additional sign size criteria for bypasses are contained in TGM 2-15-53 (Bypass Signing).