



Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-3-43
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 3	Warning
SUBJECT 43	Parallel On-Ramp Lane Reduction Signing

A. Background and Purpose

At some interchange locations, long parallel (acceleration) entrance ramps are constructed to allow vehicles ample distance to get up to the mainline travel speeds, thus helping to eliminate slowing down of the mainline traffic. Questions have arisen as to whether warning signs, such as the Lane Ends Symbol (W4-2 sign). The [2009 MUTCD, Section 2C-42](#) states that Lane Ends Signs *should not* be installed in advance of the downstream end of an acceleration lane. It *should* also be noted that the Wisconsin Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD, Section 2C.42 states that a Lane Ends Sign *may* be installed on a freeway entrance ramp. These would be cases where the signs would be beneficial by exercising Engineering Judgment in certain locations. In absence of specific guidance in the Wisconsin Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD, this policy will provide additional guidance as to where the Lane Ends Sign *may* be utilized for long parallel entrance ramps.

B. Guidelines

The following is guidance relating to the usage of the Lane Ends signs (W4-2) on long parallel (acceleration) ramps:

1. Issues with motorists not realizing that the entrance ramp is not a mainline or auxiliary exit lane. This could be exhibited by last minute merge movements or braking.
2. Slowing down and last of mainline traffic caused by last minute lane changes.
3. Crash issues relating to the last minute, quick lane changes or braking.
4. The Lane Ends sign (W4-2) *should not* be used on all parallel entrance ramps. Parallel entrance ramps should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
5. Parallel entrance ramps that have been previously signed *should* be evaluated as opportunities permit (improvement projects, routine sign replacements, knockdowns, etc.). This *should* be done prior to removing any signs. Any parallel entrance ramps not meeting the above guidance criteria *should* have the Lane Ends sign (W4-2) removed.