



35.3.1 Sign Placement

PCMS must be placed to allow drivers enough time to comprehend the message and decide what action to take.

When the PCMS is used to warn of stopped or slowed traffic, place it far enough in advance of the longest anticipated queue of traffic so drivers have adequate distance to stop. If used to provide information on delays, current ramp closures or to inform of alternate routes, place the PCMS in advance of exits to alternate routes so drivers have adequate time to decide whether or not to exit without making erratic maneuvers.

When used to provide lane closure warning and there is an interchange between the sign and the lane closure, include enough information about location of the lane closure so exiting traffic is not encouraged to make unnecessary lane changes prior to the interchange.

It is possible to use multiple PCMS for adequate warning or if one PCMS cannot safely display enough information. When anticipated queue lengths vary, and queues could extend beyond an interchange, PCMS may be needed on each side of the interchange and should provide current information.

For advance notice (up to 10 days) of ramp or lane closures, PCMS may be placed at the actual closure location to give notice to repeat drivers.

35.3.1.1 Lateral Placement

Signs should be placed as far away from the live traffic lanes as possible without hampering visibility. In advance of Interstate construction projects, the signs should be placed on the backslope beyond the ditch. The location selected should be at or slightly above the elevation of the roadway. This improves the visibility, minimizes the chance of a vehicle hit, and also improves safety for the sign maintenance worker. For intermittent work such as freeway lane closure, or where site conditions do not allow otherwise, the signs may be placed on the shoulder. The site should be visited to assure visibility, safety and maintenance considerations. A taper of reflectorized drums, cones or barricades should be placed ahead of PCMS placed on the shoulder if it is not shielded by a barrier.

35.3.1.2 Electrical service

PCMS are powered with solar power technologies; so hard wiring the device to an electrical service is not necessary.