

	SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT SIGN		Issued: JULY 2004
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	REGULATORY SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION		

General

Rural multi-lane highways serve multiple classes of vehicles often traveling at different speeds. Traffic operation under such conditions is complex and often involves lane change, merge and diverge maneuvers. Weaving along multi-lane highway sections can be frequent, exposing drivers to a greater risk of vehicle collisions.

In Alberta, the Traffic Safety Act, Regulation AR 304/2002 has provisions for the operation of traffic along multi-lane highways. Under the Act, drivers are required to use the outside lanes unless their travelling speeds are at or near the posted speed. The inside or centre lane accommodates overtaking manoeuvres.

Under heavy traffic conditions, where the potential for weaving is higher and lane change manoeuvres are frequent, signs may be used to advise slower drivers to use the outside lanes.

In Alberta, the regulatory Slower Traffic Keep Right sign was adopted for this purpose. The sign alerts and advises slow-moving traffic to drive in the right-hand lane and allow vehicles travelling at higher speeds to pass.

The introduction of the Slower Traffic Keep Right sign usually improves the operation of traffic in the inside lane and may reduce unnecessary weaving.

Provincial Legislation

Sections 2(1)(b) and (c) of Part 1, Division 1 of the Traffic Safety Act, Regulation AR

304/2002 provide regulations for traffic travelling along a multi-lane divided highway.

Based on the Regulation 304/2002:

2(1) *A person shall not do any of the following:*

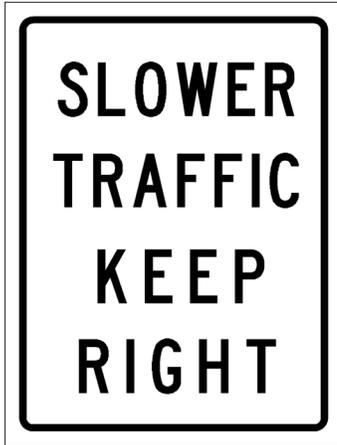
(b) *where a highway that is located outside an urban area has 2 or more traffic lanes on the same side of the centre line for use by vehicles travelling in the same direction, drive a vehicle in the traffic lane nearest the centre line unless the vehicle is being driven at or near the maximum speed permitted;*

(c) *Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b), a person driving a vehicle on a highway at a speed that is below the maximum speed limit that is established or prescribed for that highway may drive the vehicle in the traffic lane nearest to the centre line for the purpose of overtaking and passing another vehicle.*

Standard

The Slower Traffic Keep Right sign is a regulatory information sign. Two versions of the sign are approved for use along provincial highways: a standard version **RB-35** and an enhanced version **RB-35X**.

A standard RB-35 sign has a rectangular shape and consists of a black message on a white background. The size of the sign is **900 mm x 1200 mm**.



RB-35	900 mm x 1200 mm	
Colour	Message and Border Background	Black White
Sheeting	ASTM, Type III or IV	



RB-35X	1200 mm x 1600 mm	
Colour	Message and Border Background	Black White
Sheeting	ASTM, Type III or IV	

The enhanced version of the sign, RB-35X, consists of a standard black message on a white background placed in a “starburst” pattern frame. The size of the sign is **1200 mm x 1600 mm**.

Guidelines for Use

In general, Slower Traffic Keep Right signs may be provided in situations where traffic flow along a multi-lane divided highway is heavy and lane change or weaving manoeuvres are frequent.

Because the drivers are required to follow Regulation 304/2002 of the Act, a regulatory sign is not needed under normal traffic conditions (i.e., low to moderate traffic volumes).

A standard sign may be installed in the following situations:

- on rural four-lane divided highways (with two lanes in each direction of travel) with posted speed limits of 100 km/h or higher, and carrying traffic volumes exceeding 10,000 vehicles on a daily basis
- on all rural divided highways with three or more lanes in each direction of travel.

The enhanced version of the Slower Traffic Keep Right sign should only be considered where additional emphasis is needed due to high traffic volumes and high travelling speeds.

Installation of the enhanced version of the sign requires special approval from the Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Technical Standards Branch. Currently, the starburst version of the Slower Traffic Keep Right sign is only permitted on Highway 2 between Calgary and Edmonton.

The Slower Traffic Keep Right sign is not recommended for the following situations:

- approaches to and through an interchange area
- freeway sections passing through urban centres (e.g. Deerfoot Trail)
- sections of two-lane highway where a third auxiliary lane has been added for passing. A Keep Right Except to Pass sign is used for this purpose.

Location Criteria

The Slower Traffic Keep Right sign is normally installed at the beginning of a divided highway section. Signs are installed on both sides of a divided highway.

The sign is repeated after each major junction where a substantial number of motorists are entering the highway. Additional signs can be placed every 20 to 30 km.