

DESIGN BULLETIN #58/2007

Distances Displayed on Interchange Sequence Signs

Summary

This Bulletin is issued to inform practitioners and department staff that the new process for determining the distances to successive interchanges displayed on interchange sequence signs is to measure from the sign to the exit ramp physical gore area. The guidelines for rounding distance values, outlined in Section A4.5.3 of the Highway Guide and Information Sign Manual, will remain unchanged.

A change to the department's practice for measuring distances to successive interchanges is necessary because where successive interchanges are closely spaced the exit advance guide sign and interchange sequence sign are relatively close together. Using the previous philosophy for measuring distances to successive interchanges, the distance displayed on the interchange sequence sign could differ significantly from the distance on the advance guide sign. With successive interchanges being closely spaced, this discrepancy has created confusion for motorists who see two different numbers in a short distance.

An informal consultation was conducted with signing consultants and it was determined that the new distance measurement philosophy for interchange sequence signs would minimize traffic operations concerns. A discrepancy in distances displayed can be a potential safety concern as it is believed that there is an increased risk of unfamiliar drivers completing erratic manoeuvres.

Traditionally, interchange sequence signs are to be considered a secondary use, and are installed to provide guidance for relative distances between roadway centrelines, not a repeat of information to physical exit gore points. The purpose of advance guide signage is to indicate the distance to the physical gore point. The informal consultation determined that motorists do not understand the difference between the two distance reference points, may be confused as to the distance to the exit, and might be more inclined to make an erratic movement as a result.

This change in distance measurement will have little or no impact on existing interchange sequence signs. If there are sign locations in the field where conflicting distance information is causing confusion, the department should overlay the affected distance message (i.e., top message on the interchange sequence sign) with the revised distance.

Key Changes

Changes to the department practice for calculating the distances displayed on interchange sequence signage have been made. These changes include the following:

- Distances to successive interchanges shall be calculated based on the distance from the interchange sequence sign to each of the exit ramp physical gore areas, rather than from the interchange sequence sign to the bridge structures or centres of the interchanges. The distance measurement method for interchange sequence signs will now be consistent with the distance measurement method for exit advance guide signs.
- Where more than one cross-street is accessed by a collector-distributor road, the cross-roads will have the same exit distance.
- This new practice supersedes the distance measurement practice illustrated in drawing TCS-A4-509, referred to in Section A4.5.3 of the Highway Guide and Information Sign Manual.

The new standards as indicated in this Bulletin are to be implemented immediately as per the usual practice.

Effective Date: November 1, 2007.

Contact

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References

Highway Guide and Information Sign Manual, Section A4.5.3

Attachment

[Revised Drawing TCS-A4-509](#)

Recommended:

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