

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs control the flow of traffic, warn you of hazards ahead, guide you to your destination, and inform you of roadway services. As indicated below, traffic signs are intentionally color coded to assist the operator.

RED - stop

GREEN - direction

YELLOW - general warning

BLACK&WHITE - regulation

BLUE - motorist service (e.g., gas, food, hotels)

BROWN - recreational, historic, or scenic site

ORANGE - construction or maintenance warning

STOP AND YIELD SIGNS



4-WAY

ALL WAY



The STOP sign always means come to a complete halt and applies to each vehicle that comes to the sign. You must stop before any crosswalk or stop line painted on the pavement. Come to a complete stop, yield to pedestrians or other vehicles, and proceed carefully. Simply slowing down is not enough. If a 4-WAY or ALL WAY sign is added to a STOP sign at an intersection, all traffic approaching the intersection must stop. The first vehicle in the intersection of a four-way stop has the right of way.

When you see a YIELD sign, slow down and be prepared to stop. Let traffic, pedestrians, or bicycles pass before you enter the intersection or join another roadway. You must come to a complete stop if traffic conditions require it.

REGULATORY SIGNS

The United States is now using an international system of traffic control signs that feature pictures and symbols rather than words. The red-and-white YIELD and DO NOT ENTER signs prohibit access or movement.

WARNING SIGNS



Yellow warning signs alert you to hazards or changes in conditions ahead. Changes in road layout, proximity to a school zone, or some special situation are examples of warning signs. Slow down and obey the sign. Disregarding a warning sign is not only dangerous, it is against the law.

GUIDE SIGNS



In the guide signs category, you will find route markers, distance-and-destination signs, and informational signs.

Green signs give highway directions and guide you through highway interchanges.

Blue signs list motorist services, like gas, food, and lodging. Brown signs direct you to public recreational areas, state and national parks, historical points of interest, and scenic sites.

In Massachusetts, numbered state highway routes are posted on white, rectangular signs with black letters and borders. Interstate highway signs are blue, red, and white shields.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ROAD WORK WARNINGS

When people are repairing or constructing roadways, their work areas are protected from traffic by orange warning signs and other devices. These signs and devices may be mounted with warning flags or yellow flashing lights. These warnings help to guide pedestrians and vehicle traffic safely through a work zone and past any hazards.

Many of these warning signs use the same symbols as yellow warning signs, but you should take extra care when orange signs are posted. Traffic and road conditions around work zones often change quickly.

In addition to posting orange warning signs, road work crews can use a number of channeling devices to keep traffic in lanes and away from hazards. Sometimes, electric warning arrow signs will direct traffic flow near a work zone.

Massachusetts has recently implemented a system which provides for civilian flaggers to work in certain work zones and construction sites and for police officers to work in other sites.

When a flag person or police officer is directing traffic around a work zone, you must obey the flagger's or officer's signals or directions.

Know signs by their appearances so you can recognize them at a distance.



Drum



Barricade



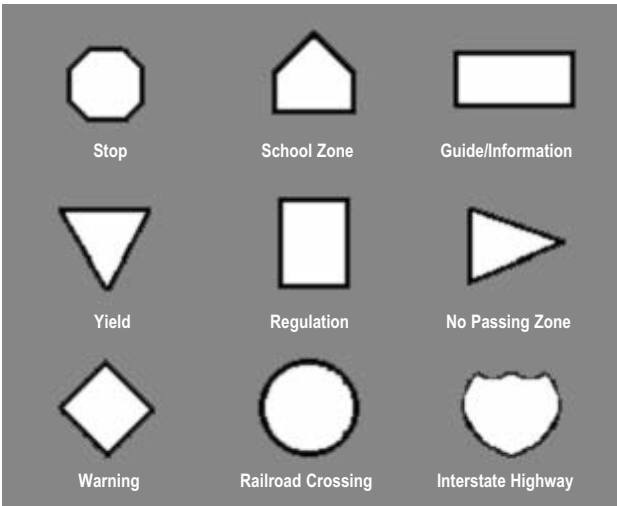
Tubular Marker



Traffic Cone



Work Zone
Flag person



Know traffic signs by their shapes

Regulatory



Traffic moves only in direction of arrow

You may not overtake another vehicle

You may *not* turn right after stopping at a red light

All traffic must go left

Keep to the right of the upcoming median or lane divider

No parking allowed between posted hours

Warning



Traffic signal ahead



Lane merging from right, watch for other traffic



Divided highway begins



Winding road, do not pass



Road curves right



Roundabout ahead



Playground



Divided highway ends



Crossroad ahead



Area off paved road is soft dirt and could be hazardous



Stop ahead



School zone



Two-way traffic



Road entering from the right



Road narrows or right lane ends



School crossing



Road slippery when wet



Road ends at junction



Traffic may flow on both sides of sign



Pedestrian crossing



Deer crossing



Railroad crossing ahead



You may not cross the yellow line to pass



Maximum height allowed

Guides and Directions



Interstate
highway
route marker



Information



Gas



Telephone



Food



Massachusetts
state highway
route marker



Hospital



Lodging



Access for those
with disabilities



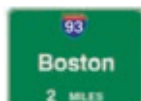
Picnic area



Junction with
a numbered
route ahead



Destination
directions



Notice of highway
exits, in miles



Point of interest



Motorist services



Destination
distances, in miles



Highway mile
markers



Parking
facilities



Freeway interchange sign



Highway rest area

Road Work



Work in
progress on the
side of the road



Road crew flag
person ahead



Maintenance or public
utility crew ahead



Notice



Roadway detour
directions



Lighted directional signs

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

A round warning sign will usually alert you to an upcoming railroad crossing. When you see this sign, slow down and prepare to stop. If you see or hear a train approaching, do not speed up and try to beat the train to the crossing.



The point at which train tracks cross a road is marked with a white crossbuck sign. If more than one track crosses a road, the number of tracks is posted below the crossbuck.



A railroad crossing may also feature red flashing lights, a bell, and a red-and-white striped gate that is lowered across the roadway when a train is passing. If the lights begin to flash, you must stop at least 15 feet before the light post or gate and remain stopped until the gate raises and the lights stop flashing. Failure to stop is a violation that carries a heavy fine. Even if you don't see a train approaching, never drive around a lowered gate or ignore the flashing lights.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Lines, symbols, and words painted on a roadway help to direct riders and control traffic flow. You must know what the different lines and colors mean and obey them as you would traffic signs or signals.

White and yellow lines are used along pavement edges and between lanes to keep vehicles in line. These lines may be solid or broken (long dashes), single or double. A solid white or solid yellow line that turns into a dotted line (short dashes) is a continuation of the line through an intersection or a highway interchange.

Unless you are turning, exiting a highway, or changing lanes, always stay between the lines marking your lane.

WHITE LANE LINES

White lane lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. Single white lines may also mark the right edge of the pavement.