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TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MEMO NO. 01-26

TO: Chief District Engineers
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THROUGH: James Ballinger, P.E. ^{Initial}
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for Project Delivery and Preservation

FROM: Tim Tharpe, P.E. ^{DS}
Director TT
Division of Traffic Operations

DATE: January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Weight Limit Signing

The 11th Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices includes a new Standard and target compliance date in relation to weight limit signing for structures. Paragraph 14 of Section 2B.64 states:

An additional weight limit sign, with an advisory distance or directional legend, shall be located in advance of the applicable section of highway or structure so that prohibited vehicles can detour or turn around prior to the limit zone.

Section 1B.03 of the MUTCD establishes a target compliance date of January 18, 2029 (five years from the effective date of the 11th Edition of the MUTCD) for the above Standard.

The Division of Traffic Operations is currently pursuing a major update to the Traffic Operations Guidance Manual. However, it will be a few months before this effort is completed. Since Bridge Preservation will soon be initiating a three-year effort to reevaluate weight limits for structures, we thought it advisable to formalize changes to our weight limit signing as soon as possible. The purpose of this Traffic Operations Memo is to update the current weight limit policy addressed in TO-402-9.

SIGN PLACEMENT

For structures that have a weight limit less than the weight limit for the class of roadway on which they are located, weight limit signs shall be installed in accordance with Section 2B.64 of the MUTCD, including:

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 Weight Limit Signing for Structures

- Weight limit sign at the structure.
- Weight limit signs in advance of the structure to allow prohibited vehicles to detour or turn around prior to the structure. These signs should include supplemental warning plaques, as addressed later in this Section.

The attached figure includes examples of weight limit signing for structures at intersections and interchanges.

Additional weight limit signs with supplemental warning plaques may be installed on other intersecting approaches between the detour/turnaround location and structure based on engineering judgment. Some items that may be considered when making such decisions include ADT, functional classification, susceptibility to catastrophic failure, and sign proliferation.

When multiple structures with varying weight limits exist between designated detour/turnaround locations, the advance weight limit signs at the detour/turnaround locations shall be based on the structure with the most restrictive limits.

At the District’s discretion, weight limit signs may be installed for rated structures less than or equal to 20 feet in length.

SIGNS

Weight limits for structures can be obtained from the Division of Maintenance and the District Bridge Engineer. Additional information on weight limit signing for structures can be found in the Kentucky Bridge Inspection Procedures Manual.

Common weight limit signs and minimum sizes are shown in the below Table:

Weight Limit Sign and Plaque Sizes			
Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Conventional Road	Freeway & Expressway
Weight Limit	R12-1	24" x 30"	36" x 48"
Weight Limit - Specialized Hauling Vehicles	R12-6	30" x 42" ¹	48" x 60"
Weight Limit - Emergency Vehicles	R12-7	30" x 36"	48" x 60"
Weight Limit - Emergency Vehicles (plaque)	R12-7aP	30" x 30"	48" x 48"
EXTENDED (plaque)	n/a	30" x 12" ²	48" x 12"
Supplemental Arrow (plaque) - Left/Right Arrow	W16-5P,6P	21" x 15"	30" x 21"
Supplemental Arrow (plaque) - Up Arrow	M6-3P ³	21" x 15"	30" x 21"
LAST EXIT BEFORE (plaque)	n/a	n/a	48" x 30"

¹ For multi-lane conventional roads, minimum size is 36" x 48".

² For multi-lane conventional roads, minimum size is 36" x 12".

³ Up arrow plaque has similar legend as a M6-3P sign but with a black on yellow legend.

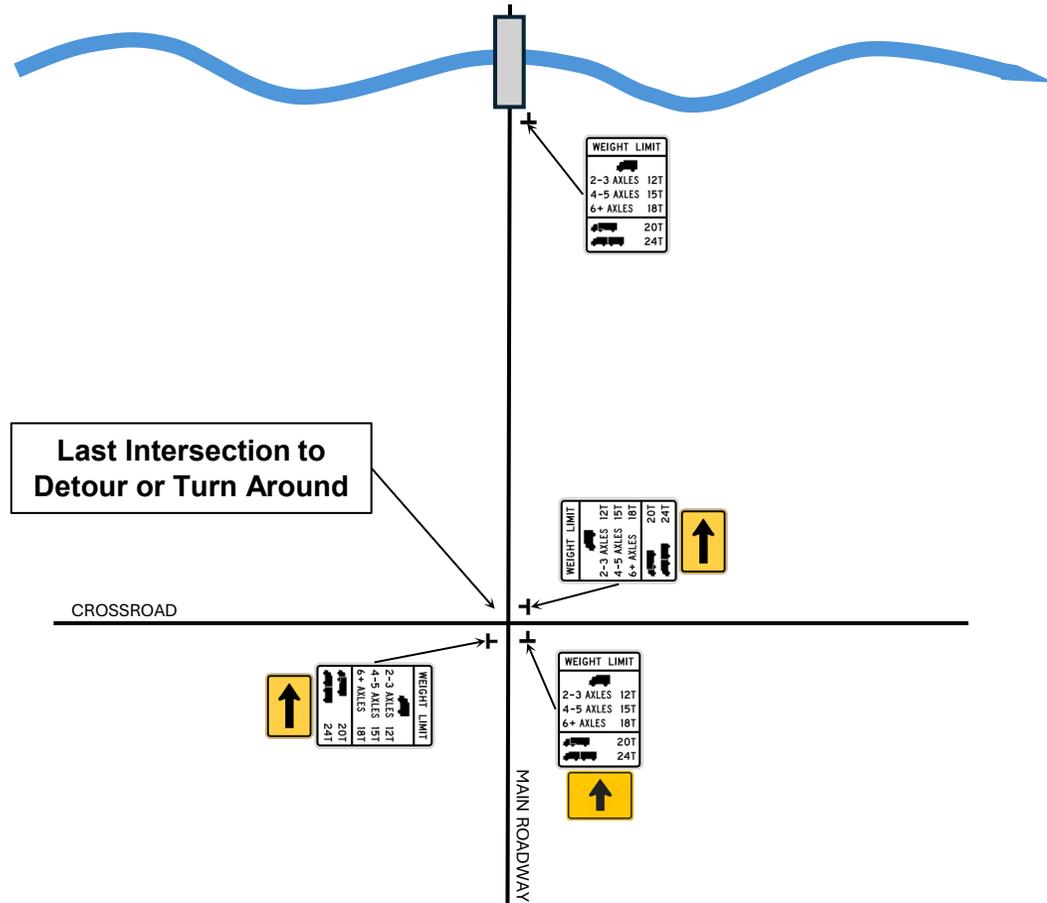
If you have any questions regarding this information or for signing situations not addressed by this memo, please contact the Division of Traffic Operations.

Attachment

cc: Josh Rogers Dora Alexander
 Michael Breidert Thava Overstreet

Examples of Weight Limit Signing

A - Weight Limit Signing at Intersection



B - Weight Limit Signing at Interchange

