

11th Edition of the MUTCD and the Massachusetts Amendments

Jim Danila, P.E.

State Traffic Engineer

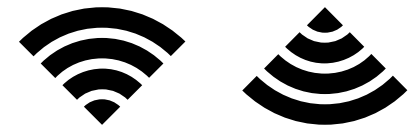
June 24, 2026

Many New Items in the 11th Edition MUTCD

- "Target road users" now emphasizes vulnerable road users (peds, bikes, people with disabilities)
- Any policies, directives, specs, std dwgs, etc. are considered supplements to the MUTCD
- Various compliance dates on signs, markings, and grade crossings
- Signal warrant standards softened to guidance
- New Part 5 for Automated Vehicles
- New temporary traffic control typical applications related to bikes and to roundabouts

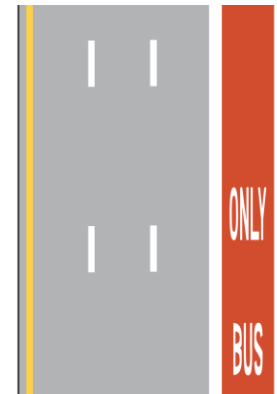
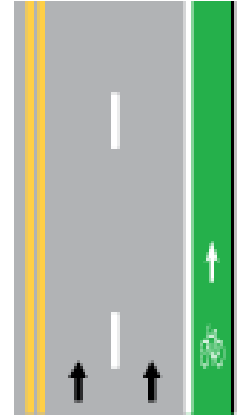
New Part 5 – Automated Vehicles

- Mostly general considerations
- When scanning graphics are used, they shall not be visible to the road user
- More emphasis on uniform TCDs in other Parts
- Guidance on 6” wide lines for better “visibility”



Notable Incorporated Interim Approvals

- Green-colored Bike Lanes (IA-14)
- Bike Signal Faces (IA-16)
- Flashing Yellow Arrow Signal Faces (IA-17)
- Bicycle Boxes (IA-18)
- Crash Experience Warrant (IA-19)
- Two-Stage Bicycle Turn Boxes (IA-20)
- RRFBs (IA-21)
- Red-colored Pavement (IA-22)



Target Compliance Dates

Table 1B-1. Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA

MUTCD Section(s)	Subject Area	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2B.64	Weight Limit Signs	Paragraph 14 - requirement for additional Weight Limit sign with the advisory distance or directional legend in advance of applicable section of highway or structure	5 years from the effective date of this edition of the MUTCD
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 - Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	5 years from the effective date of this edition of the MUTCD
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 8 - Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	5 years from the effective date of this edition of the MUTCD
3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed to maintain retroreflectivity of longitudinal pavement markings (see Paragraph 1 of Section 3A.05)	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraphs 3 and 7 - Recommended installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion signs and detour signs for vehicles with low ground clearances that might hang up on high-profile grade crossings at locations with a known history	5 years from the effective date of this edition of the MUTCD
8D.09 through 8D.12	Highway Traffic Signals at or Near Grade Crossings	Assessment and determination of appropriate treatment to achieve compliance (preemption, movement prohibition, pre-signals, queue cutter signals)	10 years from the effective date of this edition of the MUTCD

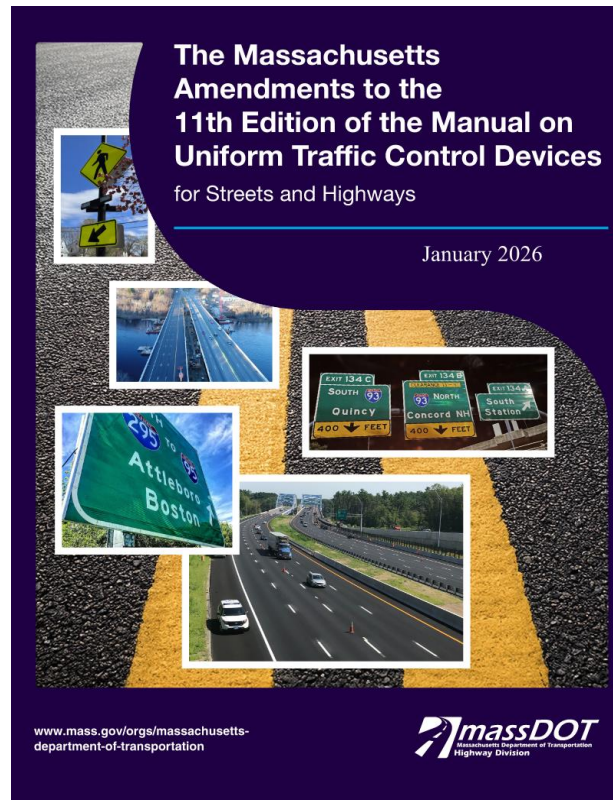
Notable Items Removed from the MUTCD

- Removed W1-1a and W1-2a signs with embedded advisory speed
- Share the Road plaque replaced by IN ROAD and IN STREET plaques
- Toll Road sign legend removed
- Various legend heavy TTC signs removed
- School zone markings subchapter removed as it was redundant with Part 3
- Part 5 for Low Volume Roads removed and its content moved to other Parts



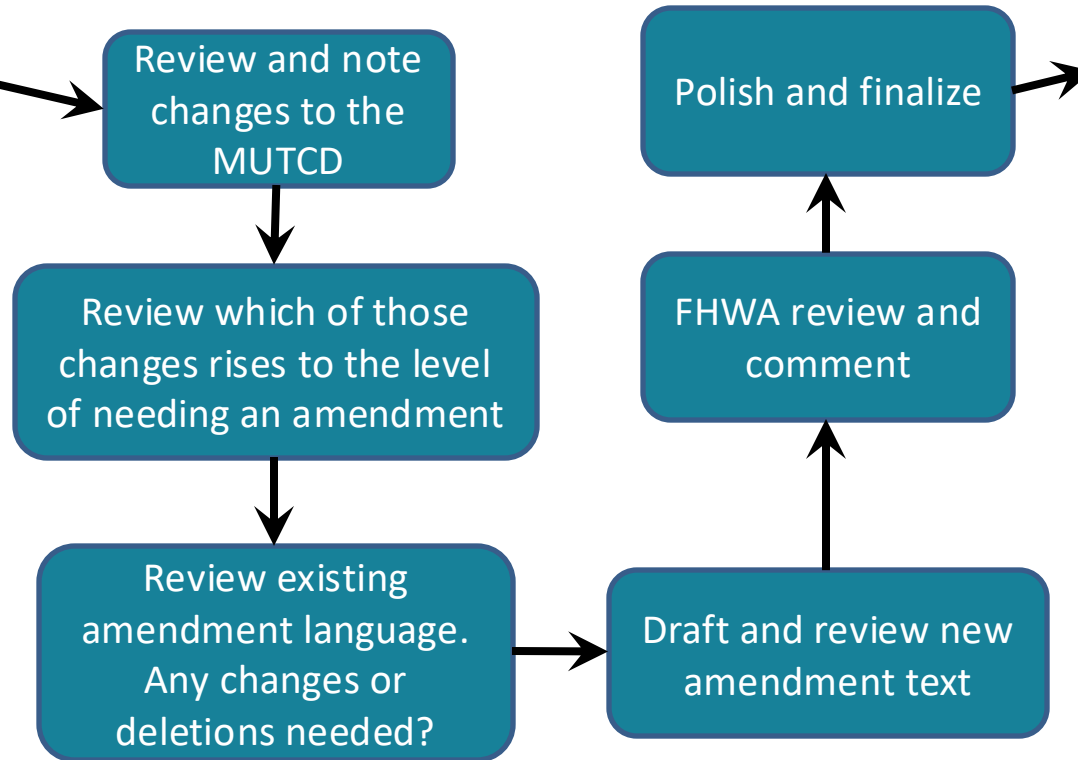
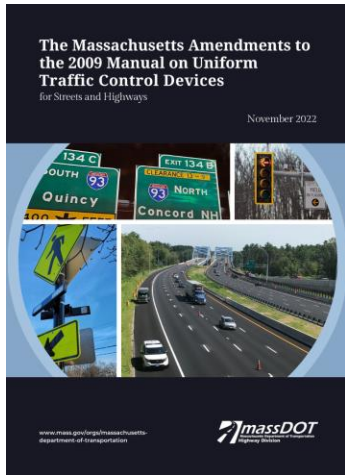
New MA Amendments to the MUTCD

- Available now at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/mutcd-massachusetts-amendments>

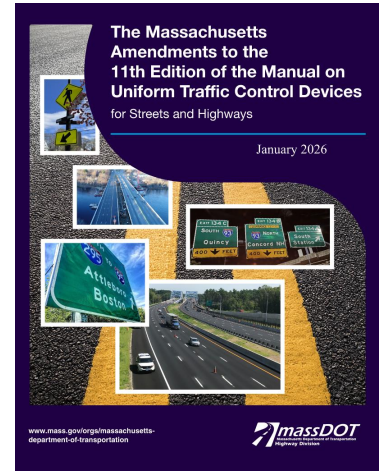


Process for Updating the MA Amendments

Previous MA Amendments

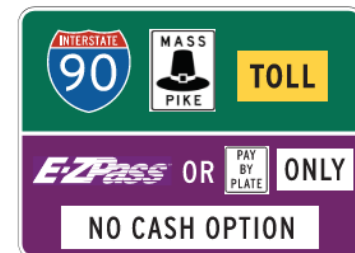
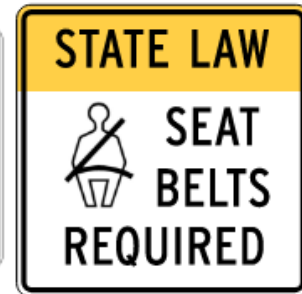
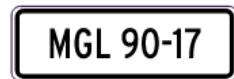


New MA Amendments



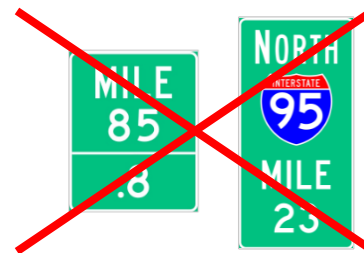
Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- Definition for vulnerable road users, someone who is less physically protected
- Relative locations of guide signs at an approach to a numbered route
- MGL plaques to supplement Speed Limit signs
- Bus Signal plaque
- Safety Zone speed limits per MGL c.90 sec 18B
- Left / Right Lane Only plaques
- State Law - Seat Belts Required sign
- Weight limit signs when tandem trailers are prohibited.
- HVCE min. weight increased to 10,000 lbs.
- Guidance on NO CASH OPTION plaque



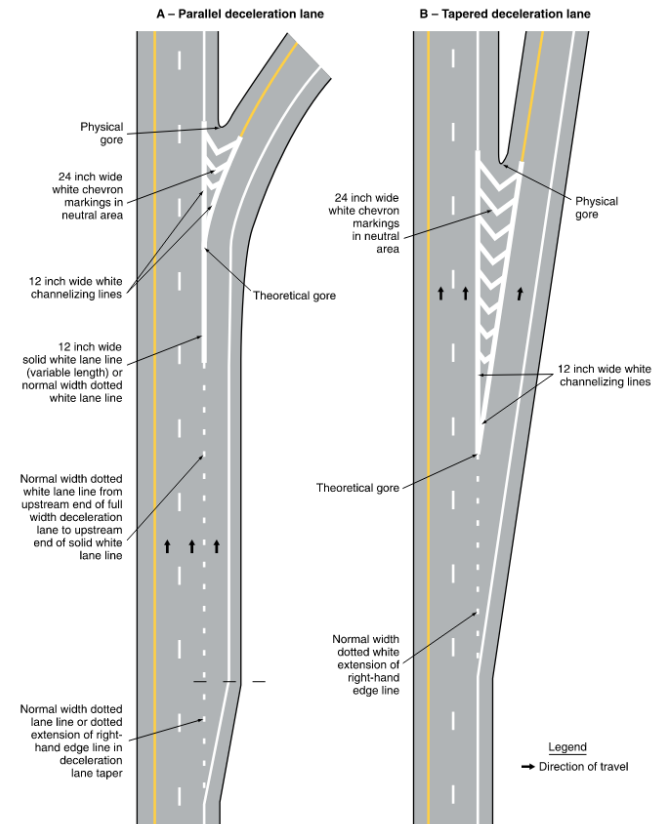
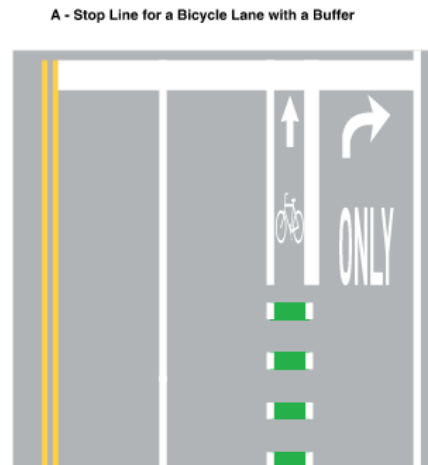
Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- EV Charging requirements
- This Lane Exit Only sign removed
- On Roadway sign replaced with IN ROAD and IN STREET signs
- MA-specific reference location signs removed (redundant with MUTCD)
- Removed State Highway Begins / Ends signs



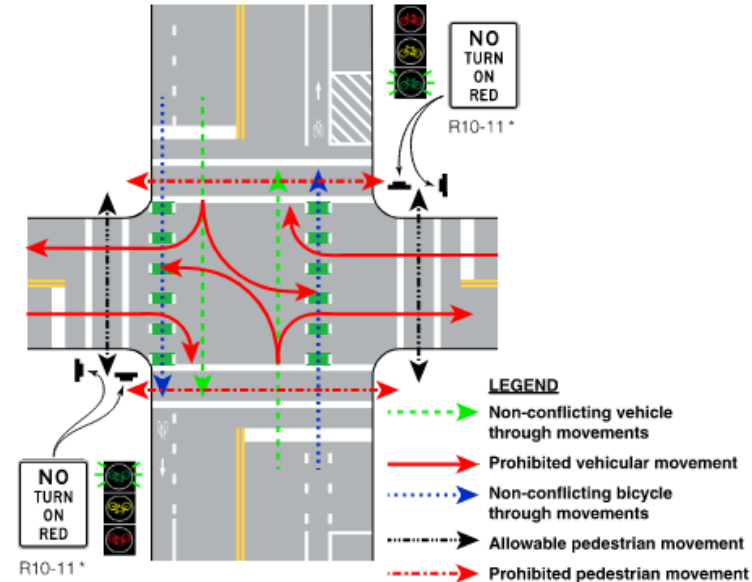
Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- MA-specific examples of entrance and exit ramp markings
- Examples of stop and yield conditions at bicycle facilities



Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- Figure added for bicycle signals at intersections
- If the intersection has a bicycle signal
 - NTOR signs
 - Concurrent vehicle turns are not allowed
- Per MA-Part 9, BIKES USE PED SIGNAL sign deleted
- Added 4 Ft Min Clearance to Pass sign

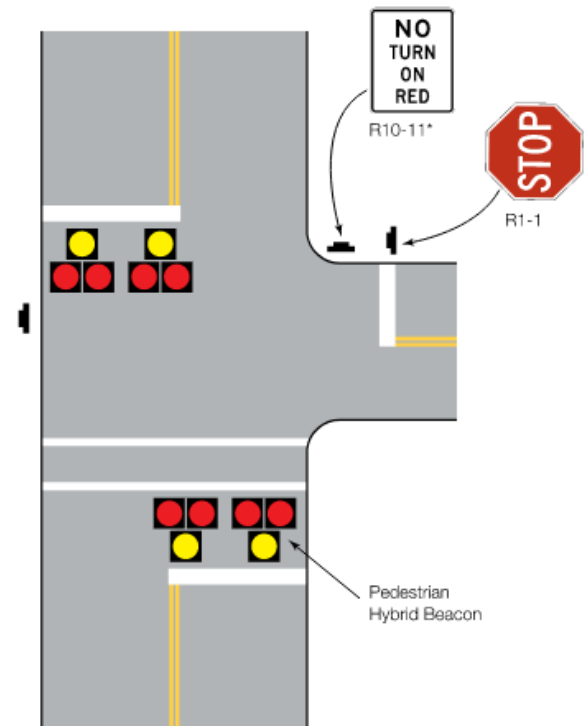


Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- Traffic Signal Warrant 1 from Standard to Guidance
- Figure added for side street control at Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons



R3-2
Blank-out

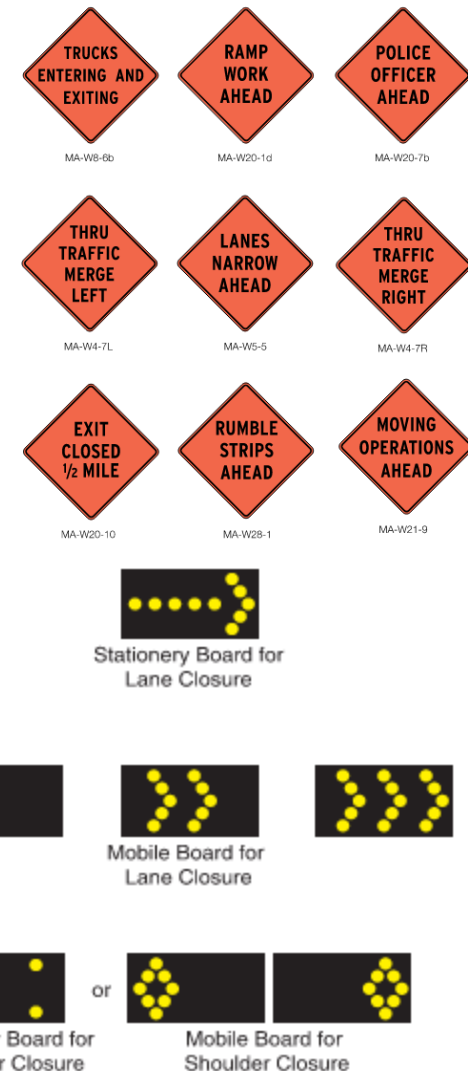


* R10-11 sign may be substituted for a different R10-11 series sign, a dynamic no turn on red sign, or it may be mounted overhead.

Notable Changes to the MA Amendments

- Part 6 expanded to include sign face figures and application standard/guidance for all signs
- Several of the legend-heavy MA warning signs were removed as they were found to be redundant to MUTCD-provided signs (Center Lane Closed Ahead, for example)
- Defining operating modes for Arrow Board based upon location and type of work.

Figure MA-6H-1. Warning Signs and Plaques In Temporary Traffic Control Zones, MA Standard



Updates to Other Relevant Documents – coming soon



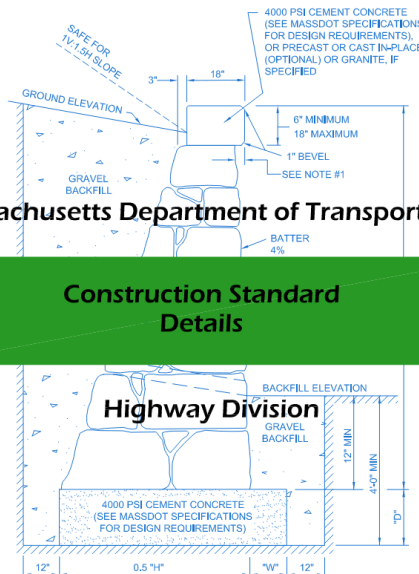
MassDOT Standard Signs

A Supplement to FHWA's Standard Highway Signs and Markings and the Massachusetts Amendments to the MUTCD



Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Construction Standard Details



WORK ZONE SAFETY

Typical Details and Drawings for
Temporary Traffic Control



Other... New bike facility guidance coming soon

**The Massachusetts
Amendments to the
11th Edition of the Manual on
Uniform Traffic Control Devices
for Streets and Highways**

January 2026



www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation

Thank you!

Any questions?