

Table 2D-1. Conventional Road Guide Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 1 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
Interstate Route (1 or 2 digits)	M1-1,1a	2D.11	24 x 24	—	36 x 36
Interstate Route (3 digits)	M1-1,1a	2D.11	30 x 24	—	45 x 36
Off-Interstate Route (1 or 2 digits)	M1-2,3	2D.11	24 x 24	—	36 x 36
Off-Interstate Route (3 digits)	M1-2,3	2D.11	30 x 24	—	45 x 36
U.S. Route (1 or 2 digits) (Marker)	M1-4	2D.11	24 x 24	—	36 x 36
U.S. Route (3 digits) (Marker)	M1-4	2D.11	30 x 24	—	45 x 36
State Route (1 or 2 digits)	M1-5	2D.11	24 x 24	—	36 x 36
State Route (3 digits)	M1-5	2D.11	30 x 24	—	45 x 36
County Route	M1-6	2D.11	24 x 24	—	36 x 36
Forest Route	M1-7	2D.11	24 x 24	18 x 18	36 x 36
Junction (plaque)	M2-1P	2D.13	21 x 15	—	30 x 21
Combination Junction (2 route signs)	M2-2	2D.14	60 x 48*	—	—
Cardinal Direction (plaque)	M3-1P,2P,3P,4P	2D.15	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Alternate (plaque)	M4-1P,1aP	2D.17	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
By-Pass (plaque)	M4-2P	2D.18	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Business (plaque)	M4-3P	2D.19	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Truck (plaque)	M4-4P	2D.20	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
To (plaque)	M4-5P	2D.21	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
End (plaque)	M4-6P	2D.22	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Temporary (plaque)	M4-7P,7aP	2D.24	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Emergency Route	M4-11	2D.59	30 x 30	—	—
Emergency Route	M4-11a	2D.59	30 x 30	—	—
Emergency Route To (plaque)	M4-11bP, 11cP	2D.59	30 x 18	—	—
End Emergency Route	M4-12	2D.59	24 x 18	—	—
Begin (plaque)	M4-14P	2D.23	24 x 12	—	36 x 18
Advance Turn Arrow (plaque)	M5-1P,2P,3P	2D.26	21 x 15	—	30 x 21
Lane Designation (plaque)	M5-4P,5P,6P	2D.27	24 x 18	—	36 x 24
Directional Arrow (plaque)	M6-1P,2P,2aP,3P,4P,5P,6P,7P	2D.28	21 x 15	—	30 x 21
National Scenic Byway	M10-1	2D.57	24 x 24	—	—
National Scenic Byway (plaque)	M10-1aP	2D.57	24 x 12	—	—
Byway Identification	M10-2	2D.58	24 x 24	—	—
Byway Identification (plaque)	M10-2aP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
State Scenic Byway System	M10-3	2D.58	24 x 24	—	—
State Scenic Byway - Simple Graphic and Byway Identification	M10-3a	2D.58	24 x 24	—	—
Scenic Byway (plaque)	M10-3bP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
National Historic Trail - Identification	M11-1	2D.58	24 x 24	—	—
National Historic Trail - Historic Route (plaque)	M11-1aP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
National Historic Trail - Crossing (plaque)	M11-1bP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
National Historic Trail - Auto Tour Route (plaque)	M11-1cP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
National Historic Trail - Distance (plaque)	M11-1dP	2D.58	24 x 12	—	—
Destination (1 line)	D1-1	2D.36	Varies x 18	—	—
Destination and Distance (1 line)	D1-1a	2D.36	Varies x 18	—	—
Circular Intersection Destination (1 line)	D1-1d	2D.39	Varies x 18	—	—
Circular Intersection Departure Guide	D1-1e	2D.39	Varies x 42*	—	—
Destination (2 lines)	D1-2	2D.36	Varies x 30	—	—
Destination and Distance (2 lines)	D1-2a	2D.36	Varies x 30	—	—
Circular Intersection Destination (2 lines)	D1-2d	2D.39	Varies x 30	—	—

Table 2D-1. Conventional Road Guide Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 2 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
Destination (3 lines)	D1-3	2D.36	Varies x 42	—	—
Destination and Distance (3 lines)	D1-3a	2D.36	Varies x 42	—	—
Circular Intersection Destination (3 lines)	D1-3d	2D.39	Varies x 42	—	—
Circular Intersection Diagrammatic Destination	D1-5	2D.39	Varies x 72*	—	—
Circular Intersection Diagrammatic Destination, Right-Turn Bypass	D1-5a	2D.39	Varies x 78*	—	—
Distance (1 line)	D2-1	2D.43	Varies x 18	—	—
Distance (2 lines)	D2-2	2D.43	Varies x 30	—	—
Distance (3 lines)	D2-3	2D.43	Varies x 42	—	—
Street Name (1 line)	D3-1,1a	2D.45	Varies x 12	Varies x 8	Varies x 18
Overhead Street Name (1 line)	D3-1,1a	2D.45	Varies x 24	—	—
Street Name (2 lines)	D3-1,1a	2D.45	Varies x 24	Varies x 15	Varies x 33
Overhead Street Name (2 lines)	D3-1,1a	2D.45	Varies x 48	—	—
Advance Street Name (2 lines)	D3-2	2D.46	Varies x 30	—	—
Advance Street Name (3 lines)	D3-2	2D.46	Varies x 42	—	—
Advance Street Name (4 lines)	D3-2	2D.46	Varies x 54	—	—
Parking Area Directional	D4-1	2D.47	30 x 24	18 x 15	—
Park - Ride	D4-2	2D.48	30 x 36	24 x 30	36 x 48
Advance Weigh Station Distance	D8-1	2D.51	78 x 60	60 x 48	96 x 72
Weigh Station Ahead	D8-1a	2D.51	66 x 48	48 x 36	—
Weigh Station Advance Direction	D8-2	2D.51	84 x 72	66 x 54	108 x 90
Weigh Station Entrance Direction	D8-3	2D.51	66 x 60	48 x 42	84 x 78
Crossover	D13-1,2	2D.52	60 x 30	—	78 x 42
Freeway Entrance	D13-3	2D.50	48 x 30	—	—
Freeway Entrance (Directional)	D13-3a	2D.50	48 x 42	—	—
Combination Lane Use / Destination	D15-1	2D.38	Varies x 96	—	—
Next Truck Lane	D17-1	2D.53	42 x 48	—	60 x 66
Advance Truck Lane	D17-2	2D.53	42 x 42	—	60 x 54
Next Passing Lane	D17-3	2D.53	42 x 48	—	60 x 66
Advance Passing Lane	D17-4	2D.53	42 x 42	—	60 x 54
Advance Emergency Turn-Out	D17-5	2D.54	60 x 36	—	78 x 54
Emergency Turn-Out (Directional)	D17-6	2D.54	60 x 36	—	78 x 60
Advance Slow Vehicle Turn-Out	D17-7	2D.54	72 x 36	—	96 x 54

Table 2D-1(CA). California Conventional Road Guide Sign Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Minimum	Oversized
Destination	G1-4(CA)	2D.36	VAR x 30	VAR x 18	VAR x 42
Destination	G1-10(CA)	2D.36	VAR x 48	VAR x 30	VAR x 60
Destination	G1-13(CA)	2D.36	VAR x 48	VAR x 30	VAR x 60
Destination	G1-19(CA)	2D.36	VAR x 42	VAR x 30	VAR x 54
Distance	G5(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 42	VAR x 30	VAR x 54
Advance Street Name plaque	G7-2(CA)	2D.44	VAR x 18	VAR x 12	VAR x 24
Destination and Street Name with Arrow	G8-4(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 30	VAR x 18	VAR x 42
Destination and Street Name with Arrow	G8-10(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 48	VAR x 30	VAR x 60
Destination and Street Name with Arrow	G8-13(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 48	VAR x 30	VAR x 60
Destination and Street Name with Arrow	G8-19(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 42	VAR x 30	VAR x 54
Destination and Street Name with Arrow	G8-22(CA)	2D.42	VAR x 30	VAR x 18	VAR x 42
Advance Lane Assignment	G21-1(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 60	VAR x 60	VAR x 72
Advance Lane Assignment	G21-3(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 90	VAR x 90	VAR x 108
Advance Turn	G22(CA)	2D.26	VAR x 48	—	—
State Route Marker	G28-2(CA)	2D.11	21 x 18	21 x 18	35 x 32
Scenic Route	G30(CA)	2D.55	48 x 26	—	—
Scenic Route (plaque)	G30aP(CA)	2D.55	12 x 18	12 x 18	18 x 27
Scenic Route (plaque)	G30bP(CA)	2D.55	18 x 18	18 x 18	24 x 24
Directional Arrow Auxiliary (plaque)	G33-1P(CA)	2D.28	24 x 6	18 x 5	30 x 8
DIVIDED ROAD (X MILES AHEAD)	G68(CA)	2D.51	114 x 60	—	—
ROUTE _____ BUSINESS	G76(CA)	2D.19	VAR x 30	—	—
Interchange Guide	G77-1(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 48	VAR x 48	VAR x 72
Interchange Guide	G77-4(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 54	VAR x 54	VAR x 72
Interchange Guide	G77-7(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 54	VAR x 54	VAR x 72
Interchange Guide	G77A(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 66	VAR x 66	VAR x 90
Interchange Guide	G78-1(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 42	VAR x 42	VAR x 54
Interchange Guide	G78-4(CA)	2D.31	VAR x 42	VAR x 42	VAR x 48
FREEWAY with Arrow	G82(CA)	2D.31	42 x 12	42 x 12	54 x 15
Supplemental Destination	G86-1(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 54	VAR x 54	VAR x 66
Supplemental Destination	G86-3(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 96	VAR x 96	VAR x 110
Supplemental Destination	G86-5(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 90	VAR x 90	VAR x 108
Supplemental Destination	G86-7(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 90	VAR x 90	VAR x 96
Exit Numbered Supplemental Destination	G86-13(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 78	VAR x 78	VAR x 90
Veterans National Cemetery Sign	G86-14(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 66	—	—
Veterans Home of California	G86-16(CA)	2D.37	VAR x 66	—	—
Intersection Number	G98A(CA)	2D.102(CA)	18 x 12	—	—
Named State Highway	SG1(CA)	2D.56	VAR x 20	—	VAR x 30
NO PICKUPS	SG8(CA)	2D.49	84 x 18	84 x 18	120 x 24
VEHICLE INSPECTION ONLY, NO LOITERING OR CAMPING	S22-1(CA)	2D.49	48 x 15	—	—
Caltrans CONSTRUCTION FIELD OFFICE	S27(CA)	2D.103(CA)	36 x 24	—	—

Table 2D-2. Recommended Minimum Letter and Numeral Sizes for Conventional Road Guide Signs According to Speed* (Sheet 1 of 2)
A - Post-Mounted Signs

Type of Sign	Single-Lane			Multi-Lane		
	Less than 30 mph	30-40 mph	Greater than 40 mph	Less than 30 mph	30-40 mph	Greater than 40 mph
A. Intersection or Interchange Advance Guide Signs and Entrance Direction Guide Signs						
Interstate or Off-Interstate Business Route Signs						
Numerals**	6	9	14	9	9	14
1- or 2-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36	24 x 24	24 x 24	36 x 36
3-Digit Shields	22.5 x 18	30 x 24	45 x 36	30 x 24	30 x 24	45 x 36
U.S. or State Route Signs						
Numerals	9	12	18	12	12	18
1- or 2-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36	24 x 24	24 x 24	36 x 36
3-Digit Shields	22.5 x 18	30 x 24	45 x 36	30 x 24	30 x 24	45 x 36
County Route Signs						
Numerals	6	8	10	8	8	10
1-, 2-, or 3-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36	24 x 24	24 x 24	36 x 36
U.S. or State Route Text Identification (Examples: U S 56, Md 2)						
Numerals & Letters	8	12	15	10	12	15
Cardinal Directions (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST)						
First Letter - Upper-Case	6	8	10	8	8	10
Rest of Word - Upper-Case	5	6	8	6	6	8
Auxiliary and Alternative Route Legends (Examples: JCT, TO, ALT, BUSINESS)						
Words - Upper-Case	5	6	8	6	6	8
Names of Destinations or Roads (Examples: Springfield, Main St, 2nd Ave)						
Leading Upper-Case Letter or Numerals	6	8	10.67	8	10.67	13.33
Following Lower-Case Letters or Ordinals**	4.5	6	8	6	8	10
Distance or Action Messages (Examples: 2 MILES, 1/2 MILE, KEEP RIGHT)						
Distance Numerals	6	6	8	6	8	10
Distance Fraction Numerals	4.5	4.5	6	4.5	6	8
Distance Words - Upper-Case	4.5	4.5	6	4.5	6	8
Action Message Words - Upper-Case	6	6	8	6	8	10
B. Destination and Other Guide Signs						
Names of Destinations or Roads (Examples: Springfield, Main St, 2nd Ave)						
Leading Upper-Case Letter or Numerals	4	6	8	6	8	10.67
Following Lower-Case Letters or Ordinals***	3	4.5	6	4.5	6	8
Distance or Action Messages (Examples: 2 MILES, 1/2 MILE, KEEP RIGHT)						
Distance Numerals	5	6	8	5	6	8
Distance Fraction Numerals	4	4.5	6	4	4.5	6
Distance Words - Upper-Case	4	4.5	6	4	4.5	6
Action Message Words - Upper-Case	5	6	8	6	6	8

Table 2D-2. Recommended Minimum Letter and Numeral Sizes for Conventional Road Guide Signs According to Speed* (Sheet 2 of 2)
B - Overhead-Mounted Signs

Type of Sign	Less than 35 mph	35-55 mph	Greater than 55 mph
A. Intersection or Interchange Advance Guide Signs and Entrance Direction Guide Signs			
Interstate, U.S., State, or Off-Interstate Business Route Signs			
Numerals**	6	9	14
1- or 2-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36
3-Digit Shields	22.5 x 18	30 x 24	45 x 36
U.S. or State Route Signs			
Numerals	9	12	18
1- or 2-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36
3-Digit Shields	22.5 x 18	30 x 24	45 x 36
County Route Signs			
Numerals	6	8	10
1-, 2-, or 3-Digit Shields	18 x 18	24 x 24	36 x 36
U.S. or State Route Text Identification (Examples: U S 56, Md 2)			
Numerals & Letters	8	12	15
Cardinal Directions (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST)			
First Letter - Upper-Case	6	8	12
Rest of Word - Upper-Case	5	6	10
Auxiliary and Alternative Route Legends (Examples: JCT, TO, ALT, BUSINESS)			
Words - Upper-Case	5	6	10
Names of Destinations or Roads (Examples: Springfield, Main St, 2nd Ave)			
Leading Upper-Case Letter or Numerals	6	8 (min.) 10.67 (des.)	13.33 (min.) 16 (des.)
Following Lower-Case Letters or Ordinals**	4.5	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Distance or Action Messages (Examples: 2 MILES, 1/2 MILE, KEEP RIGHT)			
Distance Numerals	6	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	12 (min.) 15 (des.)
Distance Fraction Numerals	4.5	4.5 (min.) 6 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Distance Words - Upper-Case	4.5	4.5 (min.) 6 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Action Message Words - Upper-Case	6	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	12 (min.) 15 (des.)
B. Destination and Other Guide Signs			
Names of Destinations or Roads (Examples: Springfield, Main St, 2nd Ave)			
Leading Upper-Case Letter or Numerals	6	8 (min.) 10.67 (des.)	13.33 (min.) 16 (des.)
Following Lower-Case Letters or Ordinals**	4.5	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Distance or Action Messages (Examples: 2 MILES, 1/2 MILE, KEEP RIGHT)			
Distance Numerals	6	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	12 (min.) 15 (des.)
Distance Fraction Numerals	4.5	4.5 (min.) 6 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Distance Words - Upper-Case	4.5	4.5 (min.) 6 (des.)	10 (min.) 12 (des.)
Action Message Words - Upper-Case	6	6 (min.) 8 (des.)	12 (min.) 15 (des.)

* Except as provided otherwise in this Manual

** Minimum size listed for 3-digit shields. Larger numeral sizes used for 1-digit, some 2-digit, and some 3-digit shields. See the Standard Highways Signs publication for more information on Route Sign numeral heights and Standard Alphabet series.

*** Lower-case letter height (loop height) is determined by the initial upper-case letter height (see Sec. 2A.08)

Notes: 1. Sizes are shown in inches and where applicable are shown as width x height

2. For Street Name (D3-1 Series) signs, see Table 2D-6

3. The 18-inch route shield size is not for independent use, such as in Directional or Confirmation Assemblies.

Table 2D-3. Acceptable Abbreviations for Street Name Descriptors

Descriptor	Standard Abbreviation	Descriptor	Standard Abbreviation
Avenue	Ave	Northwest	NW*
Boulevard	Blvd	Parkway	Pkwy
Bypass	Byp	Place	Pl
Causeway	Cswy	Plaza	Plz
Circle	Cir	Road	Rd
Corner	Cor	Route	Rte
Court	Ct	South	S*
Crescent	Cres	Southeast	SE*
Drive	Dr	Southwest	SW*
East	E*	Square	Sq
Expressway	Expwy	Street	St
Extension	Ext	Terrace	Ter
Freeway	Fwy	Thruway	Thwy
Highway	Hwy	Trafficway	Trfwy
Lane	La, Ln	Trail	Tr
Landing	Lndg	Turnpike	Tpk
North	N*	West	W*
Northeast	NE*		

* For pre-directional or post-directional designations or cardinal orientations, such as E Main St or 3rd St SW

Table 2D-4. Street Name Descriptors Not Acceptable for Abbreviation

Descriptor	Descriptor
Alley	Oval
Belt	Pass
Beltway	Passage
Close	Path
Cove	Ridge
Edge	Row
Gate	Run
Green	Trace
Grove	Turn
Hill	View
Loop	Vista
Mews	Walk

Table 2D-5. Overhead Arrow-per-Lane Arrow Height Based on Principal Legend Letter Height

Principal Legend Letter Height	Straight Arrow	Turn Arrow
10.67 - 13.33	32	24
8	24	18

Note: Letter and arrow heights are shown in inches.

Table 2D-6. Minimum Letter Heights on Street Name Signs

Type of Mounting	Type of Street or Highway	Speed Limit	Recommended Minimum Letter Height *	
			Initial Upper-Case	Lower-Case
Overhead	All types	All speed limits	12 inches	9 inches
Post-mounted	Multi-lane	More than 40 mph	8 inches	6 inches
Post-mounted	Multi-lane	40 mph or less	6 inches	4.5 inches
Post-mounted	2-lane	All speed limits	6 inches**	4.5 inches**

* Letter heights shown are for the street name. Descriptors or other supplementary legend may be displayed in smaller lettering of at least 3 inches.

** On two-lane local streets with speed limits of 25 mph or less, 4-inch initial upper-case letters with 3-inch lower-case letters may be used.

Table 2D-101(CA). Criteria for Supplemental Destination Signs

Type of Destination	Specific Criteria	Major Metropolitan Areas	Urbanized Areas	Rural Areas
Post Secondary School, Public or Private	Minimum Enrollment:			
	Single Campus Locations (See Note 5)	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Maximum Miles from a Freeway (See Note 6)	2	4	5
State Special School	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Notes 2, 6, and 8)	5	5	5
Zoo, Stadium, or Sports Arena	Public Owned and Non-Profit:			
	Minimum Annual Attendance	1,000,000	500,000	200,000
	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	2	2	3
Museum	Public Owned and Non-Profit:			
	Minimum Annual Attendance	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Notes 2 and 9)	5	5	5
Convention Center	Public Owned and Non-Profit:			
	Minimum Annual Attendance	500,000	250,000	—
	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	3	—	—
National Guard Armory	Only Emergency Center in the Area. Easy Access to Primary Evacuation Route (See Note 2)	—	—	—
Fairgrounds	Publicly Owned and Operated. Temporary sign only, unless there are year-round activities.			
	Minimum Annual Attendance	500,000	200,000	200,000
	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	2	4	5
Federal or State Hospitals, Prisons, National Cemeteries, and Veteran Homes	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	1	3	5
Government Centers	Number of Employees	5,000	2,000	1,000
	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	2	3	2
California Welcome Centers	Easy Access from Nearest State Highway (See Notes 2 and 7)	—	—	—
Airports	Maximum Miles from Highway (See Note 2)	1	3	5
Rail and Light Rail Stations	Easy Access from Nearest State Highway (See Note 2)	—	—	—

- NOTES: 1. Meeting the above criteria does not guarantee placement of a sign. Limitations on the spacing between signs and the number of messages permitted, specified in Section 2A.13, 2D.06, and 2D.42, shall be observed, and the eligible destination must complete signing on the basis of traffic service.
2. Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be installed by local agencies before signs are placed on the State Highway.
3. If a stadium is located at a school campus for which signs are already provided, a separate stadium sign will not be placed.
4. Definitions of Area Classifications:
- A. MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA – An urbanized area, population density of at least 1,000 inhabitants per 2.6 km² (1 mi²), not necessarily related to county boundaries, with a total population of at least 1,000,000 and an included central city with a population of at least 250,000.
 - B. URBANIZED AREA – A geographic area with a total population of at least 50,000 and an included central city with no minimum population.
 - C. RURAL AREA – All areas outside of an urbanized area.
5. A public or private postsecondary education institution shall have an enrollment of either 1,000 or more full-time students or an equivalent in part-time students. Refer to CVC Section 21375.
6. No signs to school will be erected until funds from private sources are obtained to cover the cost of the signs and their installation. If a school, which previously had signs, relocates to contribute to the improvement of the school (as determined by the California Department of Transportation), signs will be erected at the new location at no cost to the school.
7. The California Department of Transportation will charge the Welcome Center directly for the cost of the signs and their installation on the State highway. Cost for sign installation on local roads is the responsibility of the Welcome Center and the local agency.
8. Refer to California Streets and Highway Code, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 101.21.
9. Refer to California Streets and Highway Code, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 101.18.