

Meeting Date: August 6, 2026 Item Number: 26-05	From: Diane Dostalek, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Devang Vora, Caltrans	Presented By: Diane Dostalek, Caltrans
Description: Caltrans District 5 requests CTCDC approval for a new word message sign "CAUTION WIDE TURNING TRUCKS"	

Recommendation:

Motion by committee to recommend inclusion of the proposed "CAUTION WIDE TURNING TRUCKS" sign in a new CA MUTCD Section 2C.104(CA) "CAUTION WIDE TURNING TRUCKS" Sign.

Background:

At the intersection of SR 156 and Bixby Road in San Benito County is a newly constructed multilane roundabout on a four-lane expressway with a large percentage of heavy trucks. Multilane roundabouts on State Highways in California are currently designed with the anticipation that large trucks might claim both lanes while circulating through the roundabout. The language in Section 405.10 of the California Highway Design Manual (HDM) states, "Roundabouts with multilane entries or circulating lanes should be designed with the understanding that most truck drivers will not stay within the lane lines." The only exception to this is a turbo roundabout, one of which is located at the intersection of SR 25 and SR 156, around six miles to the east of the Bixby roundabout. Turbo roundabouts are designed for trucks to stay in their own lane on entry and while circulating through the roundabout.

Motorists at a non-turbo multilane roundabout are often unaware that large trucks might off-track into their lane. This can result in evasive maneuvers or sideswipe crashes if the motorist is attempting to pass a large truck in the roundabout. Some states including Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Montana, Wisconsin, and Oregon have passed laws giving the right-of-way to trucks while circulating multilane roundabouts and have developed signs informing drivers of this rule. No such law exists in California.

Section 2A.04 of the CA MUTCD gives Caltrans the authority to "develop special word legend signs in situations where engineering judgment determines roadway conditions make it necessary to provide road users with additional regulatory, warning, or guidance information, such as when road users need to be notified of special regulations or **warned about a situation that might not be readily apparent.**" Section 2A.04 goes on to say that "Unlike colors that have not been assigned or

symbols that have not been approved for signs, new word legend signs may be used without the need for experimentation."

To help reduce the potential of evasive maneuvers and sideswipe crashes due to off-tracking trucks, it is proposed to include a new sign in the CA MUTCD warning drivers of the possibility of off-tracking trucks. Since California does not have any law that prohibits motorists from driving beside a truck in a multilane roundabout, the proposed sign in California must be a warning sign, not a regulatory sign.

A proposed "DO NOT DRIVE BESIDE TRUCKS" warning sign was brought to the CTCDC at their quarterly meeting on May 7, 2026 (Item 26-05). The CTCDC denied the request on the grounds that the sign legend was too similar to what one would expect to see on a regulatory sign. During a follow-up meeting with Caltrans and FHWA representative Steve Pyburn on 6/11/2026, it was determined that a sign saying "CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS" would be more in line with a typical word message warning sign. In an informal meeting with some of the CTCDC members on 06/29/2026 the members expressed support for including the proposed "CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS" sign as an Option statement in the CA MUTCD for statewide use.

The addition of a "CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS" sign to the CA MUTCD would not change current California law, and truck drivers would still be cited if they caused a crash by off-tracking out of their lane. However, it does achieve the purpose of a warning sign by giving drivers notice of a situation that might not be readily apparent.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Proposed New Section 2C.104(CA)

Attachment B – Proposed SW61 (CA) Sign Details

Attachment C – Example Showing Proposed Location

Attachment D – Aerial View of Trucks Off-Tracking at Bixby Roundabout

Attachment E – California Warning Sign and Plaque Sizes (Table 2C-1 (CA))

ATTACHMENT A

Attachment A – Proposed New Section 2C.104(CA)

Proposal:

Notes:

Black text is consistent with the Federal MUTCD.

Blue text is current text as amended for use in California.

~~Struck-out blue~~ text is to be deleted from the CA MUTCD.

Red text is newly proposed text.

CHAPTER 2C. WARNING SIGNS AND OBJECT MARKERS

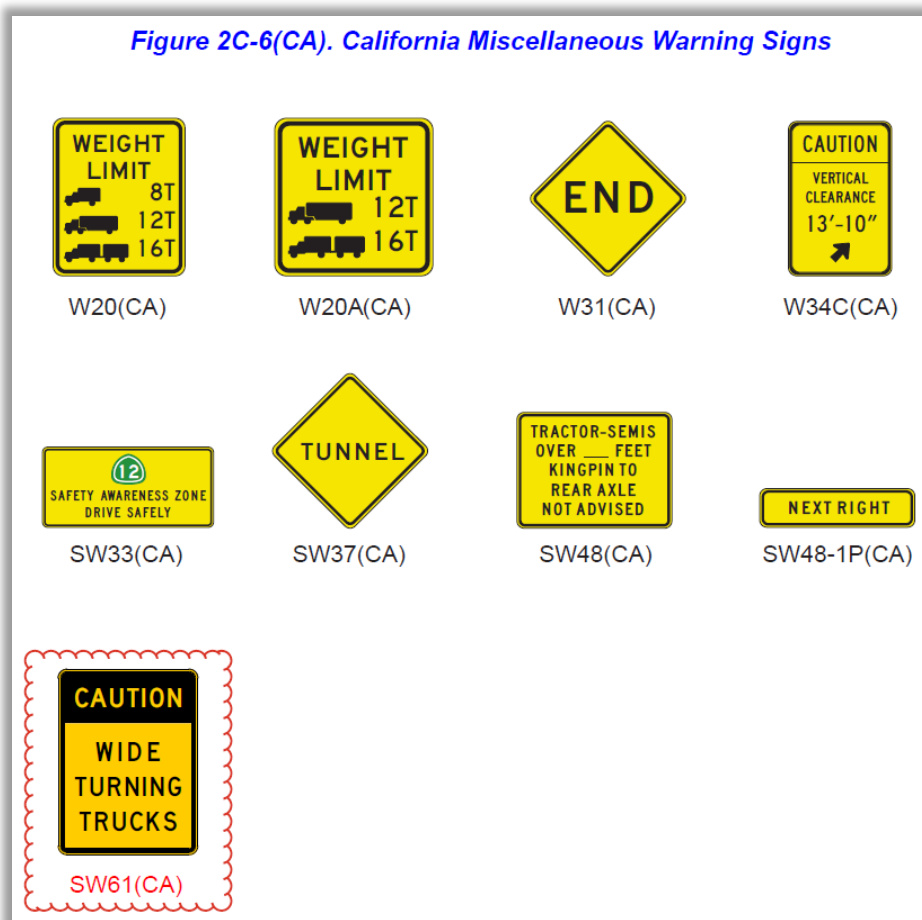
Add New Section to Chapter 2C:

Section 2C.104(CA) CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS Sign (SW61(CA))

Option:

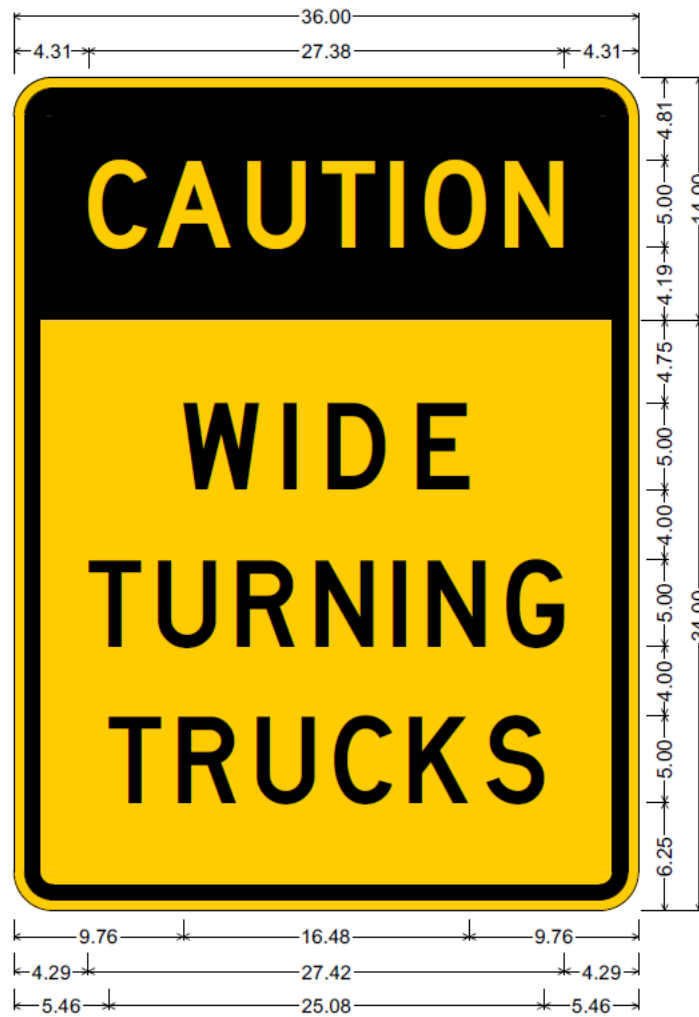
- 01 The CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS (SW61(CA)) sign (see Figure 2C-6(CA)) may be used in advance of a multilane roundabout where there is potential for commercial vehicle off-tracking.
- 02 An educational plaque such as ROUNDABOUT (W16-12aP) may be mounted below the CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS (SW61(CA)) sign.

Add New Sign to Figure 2C-6(CA):



ATTACHMENT B

Attachment B – Proposed SW61(CA) Sign Details



SW61(CA);

2.25" Radius, 0.63" Border, Yellow on Black;

"CAUTION", D;

2.25" Radius, 0.88" Border, 0.63" Indent, Black on Yellow;

"WIDE", D 150% spacing; "TURNING", D; "TRUCKS", D;

ATTACHMENT C

Attachment C – Example Showing Proposed Location

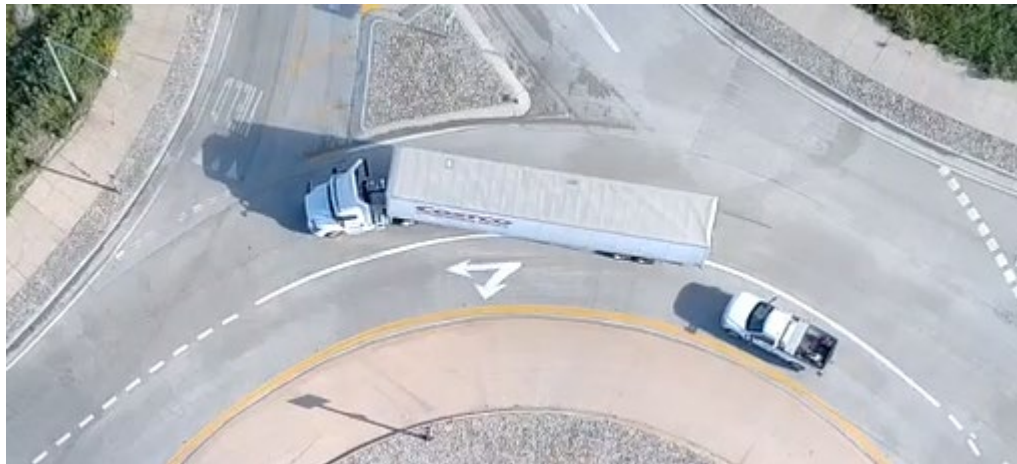
This example shows an approximate location of where the sign could be installed on the approach to a multilane roundabout. This particular location is the westbound approach to the Bixby roundabout while still under construction. The “Roundabout” plaque is optional but is being shown for scale.



ATTACHMENT D

Attachment D – Aerial View of Trucks Off-Tracking in Bixby Roundabout

Drone footage was taken at the Bixby roundabout on 3/9/2026. The photos below are snapshots from the videos that were taken that show commercial vehicles off tracking in the roundabout:



ATTACHMENT E

Attachment E – California Warning Sign and Plaque Sizes (Table 2C-1(CA))

Table 2C-1(CA). California Warning Sign and Plaque Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road		Expressway	Freeway	Minimum	Oversized
			Single Lane	Multi-Lane				
SENIOR	SW50-2P(CA)	2C.55	24 x 8	24 x 8	24 x 8	—	—	—
WATCH FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT	SW58(CA)	2C.54	36 x 36	36 x 36	54 x 48	54 x 48	—	—
CAUTION, WIDE TURNING TRUCKS	SW61(CA)	2C.104(CA)	24 x 30	24 x 30	36 x 48	—	—	—