

# Memorandum

*Serious drought.  
Help Save Water!*

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
Construction, Design, Maintenance, and  
Traffic Operations

Date: May 10, 2016

File: Division of Traffic  
Operations



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Subject: **ROUTE SHIELD PAVEMENT MARKINGS**

The purpose of this memo is to establish criteria and guidance for the use of route shield pavement markings. Route shield pavement markings are available for use in accordance with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) Section 3B.20. Route shield pavement markings should be considered as a supplement to vertical signage. Overhead or roadside signs can be missed by drivers due to visual clutter or obstructed by other traffic (large trucks, etc). Route shield pavement markings can reiterate the information provided on overhead or roadside signs that depict the upcoming interchange geometry. When drivers receive information on interchange geometry early, and in multiple ways, they are more likely to make better driving decisions and change lanes further upstream, thereby reducing late lane changes and erratic movements near freeway exits.

Route shield pavement markings should be considered:

- At locations with complex freeway to freeway interchanges.
- At locations with a collision history where collisions are likely due to weaving.
- At complex lane assignments such as lane drops or double lane exits with optional lanes.
- At locations where crash cushions are hit frequently.
- At unusual geometries.
- When there is unexpected congestion at an interchange due to the underutilization of the optional lane or excessive lane changing maneuvers.
- Where overhead signing normally would be required but installation is impractical.
- At turn lanes from local streets to the on-ramps, where overhead sign structures are not practical.

DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, et al.

May 10, 2016

Page 2 of 2

Installation or replacement of route shield pavement markings should be done by contract in order to reduce maintenance staff exposure. Please see the attached Route Shield Pavement Marking Recommendations and Guidance with example photographs.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Duper Tong, Chief, Office of Traffic Engineering at (916) 654-5176, or by e-mail at [duper.tong@dot.ca.gov](mailto:duper.tong@dot.ca.gov).

Attachment

Route Shield Pavement Markings Recommendations and Guidance

c: District Directors

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