NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERSATATE, TURNPIKE AND OTHER LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY GUIDELINES

SIGNING FOR GENERIC MOTORIST SERVICES

FOOD – FUEL – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION - HOSPITAL – FREESTANDING EMERGENCY ROOM
- CAMPING – TOURIST INFORMATION

1. Standard services signs with the appropriate symbol will be erected on New Hampshire interstate, turnpikes and other limited access highways at an interchange or exit when one or more of the services are located in rural areas within 1.5 miles (unless otherwise noted) and does not require “trailblazing”. The service must be located within 0.25 mile of the ramp in urban areas. When the only services available required trailblazing, the department has made exceptions as long as legal trailblazing was established.

2. Service signing shall only be provided at interchanges where the motorist can return to the freeway and continue in the same direction of travel or where sufficient official guide signage exists to redirect the motorist to a junction where they can resume their original direction of travel along the freeway.

3. Wherever practical, symbols will be attached below the major or supplemental advance guide signs. Separate signs for services may be used when this is not practical. It is determined that when four or more services exist at the same interchange then a separate sign is deemed practical. In instances where interchanges are closely spaced, it may be necessary to eliminate generic motorist service signs.

4. Service signs with the legend “Next (…) Exits” may be used at an interchange with more than one off ramp or closely spaced interchanges.

5. When considered necessary in order to provide adequate information as to the direction of services after leaving the interstate highway, additional signs in the form of directional guides may be located at the end of the off ramp.

6. When any service is provided on a seasonal basis a supplemental panel “SEASONAL” will be applied. The symbol for discontinued services will be removed. A service must be available for at least five months of a 12 month period to qualify.

7. When limited motorist services are available over long distances, service signs with the legend “LIMITED SERVICES NEXT (…) MILES” may be required.

8. Eligible services will meet the following requirements:

   a. FOOD – Will be shown when a restaurant or eating place is available seating at least 20 people at tables or counter, or a combination of both, with restrooms. Service hours will cover two meals at least 6 days a week.
b. **FUEL** – Will be shown for any available station regardless of brand name of station. The symbol for DIESEL FUEL may be used if diesel fuel is available in addition to gasoline. “24 HRS” panels may be added only if the station is open 24 HRS/7 days per week. A station must have an attendant on premise during hours of operation.

i. Vehicle service such as fuel, oil and water.

ii. Restroom facilities and drinking water.

iii. Services will be required continuously (at a minimum) between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, seven days a week. The hours of service requirement may be waived during periods of national emergency or shortage.

c. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION** - will be shown for DC Fast (Level 3) Electric Vehicle Charging Stations available for public use without any conditions or requirements. “24 HRS” panels may be added only if the EV Charging Station is open 24 HRS/7 days per week. A station must have an attendant on premise during all hours of operation.

i. Must maintain on-premise EV Charging signage visible to motorist from the main travelled way.

ii. If not clearly visible from the entrance the establishment must maintain EV Charging station signage directing motorist within the facility to the designated charging parking spaces.

iii. Restroom facilities and drinking water.

iv. Services will be required continuously (at a minimum) between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, seven days a week.

d. **LODGING** – will be shown for a hotel, inn, motel, or cabins with a total of ten or more separate rentable rooms.

e. **HOSPITAL** –

i. Must be a hospital with a minimum of 10 beds providing continuous 24-hour emergency care capabilities with a doctor on call or on duty 7 days a week.

ii. The distance requirement set in paragraph (1) above will not apply to this category of signing but will be established on the basis of need to the nearest qualifying hospital and upon agreement with local officials as to routing and their assuming responsibility for signing on the local system.

f. **FREESTANDING EMERGENCY ROOM**

i. Must be licensed as a Freestanding Emergency Room under RSA 151:5 by the NH Department of Health and Human Services.

ii. Must operate on a 24 hours/day basis 7 days/week.

iii. The distance requirement set in paragraph (1) above will not apply to this category of signing but will be limited to 1 mile and upon agreement with local officials as to routing and their assuming responsibility for signing on the local system if necessary.
g. **CAMPING** –
   i. Accommodations for at least 20 campers.
   ii. Adequate parking accommodations.
   iii. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.
   iv. Legal trailblazing must be maintained at all times if not located on the intersected highway or connecting route.
   v. Located within 5 miles of the intersection of the ramp and the intersected highway.

h. **TOURIST INFORMATION** –
   i. The facility must be located within one mile of the intersecting route.
      1. It must be readily located beyond the exit or adequate signing must be provided by a local agency to direct motorists to the information facility.
   ii. The service must be provided at least 8 hours per day.
   iii. There will be no charge for service or information provided.
   iv. The tourist information booth, building or board is separately housed and provides motorist with information regarding services (food, lodging and camping) in the general area. This item has been waived on a case by case basis.

**SERVICES** – A “SERVICES” panel may be substituted in place of individual panels on the ramp when FOOD, FUEL, and LODGING are all available in the same direction. To avoid motorist confusion and to maintain consistency this should rarely be used.

**EFFECT OF SPECIFIC MOTORIST SERVICE SIGNS (LOGOS) ON GENERIC SIGNING**

When a specific Motorist Service logo is installed on a ramp, a corresponding generic symbol shall be maintained on the highways mainline only. If existing, the generic signage for the service provided on the specific logo signage shall be removed from the ramp regardless of direction.

Example: A Mobil gas station is approved for a specific service logo sign on an exit ramp. The Mobil Station is a left turn off the ramp. The generic GAS panel on the ramp is removed even if the generic GAS panel directs both left and right.