



MEMO

January 23, 2019

To: Commercial Sign Regulatory Program

From: Wendy Knox
Director, Commercial Sign Section

DS
WK

Subject: Signs Along Interchanges

This policy is to address spacing of commercial signs adjacent to a direct connector between the main traveled way of one to the main traveled lane of roadway.

Background

Commercial signs located adjacent and visible to a direct connector from a main traveled way to another main traveled way may be considered a distraction and safety hazard to drivers. Commercial signs may not be erected along a freeway or interstate adjacent to or within 1,000 feet of interchange or intersection at grade; or a rest area, ramp, or the highway's acceleration and deceleration lanes as defined by 43 TAC § 21.185 when the department determines that there is a safety issue. In 43 TAC § 21.142 Definitions (14) Main-traveled way is defined as—"The traveled way of a highway that carries through traffic. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each of the separate roadways for traffic in opposite directions is a main-traveled way. It does not include such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas. A direct connector from one main traveled way to another main traveled way, has only one direction of travel and is not considered part of the main traveled way." In fact, based on the definitions provided a direct connector is viewed by the department as a "interchange". The TxDOT Design Manual considers a turn of 30 degrees or greater to be a "turning roadway" precluding the interchange roadway from being considered the main traveled way.

Commercial Sign Section policy is as follows, effective the date of this memo:

Therefore, ROW refers to § 21.183 (a) (1) a sign may not be located in a place that creates a safety hazard, including a location that: (1) causes a driver to be unduly distracted. Sign sites will not be permitted adjacent to or within 1,000 feet of an interchange. Any permitted sign that exists currently within these prohibited areas will be considered as non-conforming.

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