Milepost-based Exit Renumbering

All highways in the state with existing exit numbers will be converted from sequential (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc.) numbering to a milepost-based (i.e. 3, 5, 11, etc.) numbering system in Massachusetts per Federal requirement.

IMPLEMENTATION

→ Route-by-route construction
→ Conversion will begin in western MA and move eastward
→ Individual routes will be converted north to south, or east to west
→ Multiple routes will be worked on simultaneously
→ “Old Exit” signs will be installed at key locations for a minimum of two years
→ Routes that currently do not have exit numbers will not be assigned new exit numbers as part of this project (ex: Route 28, 57, and 79)
→ Due to the length and spacing of exits, the exit numbers on the following corridors will not be changed:
  - Route 213
  - Interstate 291
  - Interstate 391
  - Lowell Connector

ADVANTAGES TO MILEPOST SYSTEM

Driver friendly navigation
→ Allows drivers to quickly determine distances to destinations
→ Miles traveled can be calculated more easily

More accurate emergency response
→ Improves reporting of highway incidents, resulting in better navigation of emergency services

National uniformity
→ Same exit numbering scheme as the majority of states

Reduced maintenance costs
→ Sign numbering does not need to be changed if new interchanges are added to a route
FAQs

How will the program be paid for?
The project will be paid for through Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. HSIP funding carries a 90/10 split, which means that 90% of the project will be funded through federal funds and the remaining 10% will be funded through state highway funds.

Will there be impacts to traffic?
We anticipate only minimal impacts to traffic during construction. The public will be notified in advance of construction start and MassDOT will use electronic changeable message signs to alert motorists along the route of the pending changes.

What is MassDOT doing to notify the public of this conversion?
MassDOT is conducting an extensive public outreach campaign to notify the public of the new numbering system. Outreach includes in-person and online communication strategies that will give the public ample opportunity to learn about the project and ask questions prior to construction.

What routes is this requirement applicable to?
The MUTCD requirement applies to all controlled access roads with exits, meaning interstates and freeways; MassDOT owns the only roads that the requirement is applicable to.

What will the new exit signs look like?
Exit signage panels will remain the same, just the numbers themselves will change. “Old Exit #” signs, which will have a yellow background with black lettering, will be installed at key locations for a minimum of 2 years.

When will new signs be installed?
New exit signage will be installed during off-peak hours beginning in late Summer of 2020.

How will I know when construction on my route is beginning?
The calendar on the project’s website will remain up-to-date during construction with dates and times of signage installation. Visit the website to sign-up for regular project updates.

How can I submit my questions?
Visit the project’s website to submit questions and sign up for the project’s mailing list.