

Proposed Dual-Language Signing Parameters

The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD) is the National standard for all traffic control devices on any roadway open to public travel. The MUTCD generally does not provide for the display of alternative or supplemental languages on traffic signs. Recent inquiries from Indian Tribal Governments have requested that traffic signs displaying dual languages be erected on roads and highways that traverse Tribal lands. Tribal Governments may use dual language signing on roadways in accordance with the conditions herein to provide navigational information that support travel within the Tribal land. The following is the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) policy on the display of alternative or supplemental languages on traffic signs.

No sign shall display an alternative language that supplants a word legend displayed in English in the contiguous United States (including the District of Columbia), Alaska, or Hawaii. However, the display of additional legend in another language to supplement the legend displayed in English may be allowed in certain, limited cases. These cases are described herein.

The additional supplemental language legend shall be deemphasized and shall be located below the sign displaying the English equivalent on the same or separate sign substrate. This deemphasizing shall be accomplished by the use of a reduced letter height for the supplemental language legend no larger than 75% of the recommended minimum letter height in the MUTCD for the English language legend.

The display of a **maximum of two languages on a single sign or sign assembly may be allowed**, subject to the following limitations:

1. Such signs shall be limited to **roadways within, or immediately adjacent to (for destination signs only), the boundaries of an Indian Tribal land.**
2. **English shall be the primary language legend. The supplemental language legend shall be the native language of the specific Tribe that governs the Tribal land in which the sign is located.**
3. The display of a supplemental language **shall be limited to the following types of signs:**
 - a. **Jurisdictional Boundary (I-2) and Geographic Reference (I-3) signs as provided in Section 2H.04 of the MUTCD;**

Section 2H.04 Miscellaneous Information Signs

Support:

01 Miscellaneous information are used to point out geographical features, such as rivers and summits, and other jurisdictional boundaries (see Section 2H.02). Figure 2H-1 shows examples of miscellaneous information (I-2 and I-3) signs.

Option:

02 Miscellaneous information signs may be used if they do not interfere with signing for interchanges or other critical points.

Guidance:

03 Miscellaneous information signs should not be installed unless there are specific reasons for orienting the road users or identifying control points for activities that are clearly in the public interest. If Miscellaneous information signs are to be of value to the road user, they should be consistent with other guide signs in design and legibility. On all such signs, the design should be simple and dignified, devoid of any tendency toward flamboyant advertising, and in general compliance with other signing.



I-2



I-3

Examples

- b. **Memorial or Dedication signs** as provided in **Section 2M.10 of the MUTCD**;

Section 2M.10 Memorial or Dedication Signing

Support:

01 Legislative bodies will occasionally adopt an act or resolution memorializing or dedicating a highway, bridge, or other component of the highway.

Guidance:

02 Such memorial or dedication names **should not appear on or along a highway, or be placed on bridges or other highway components**. If a route, bridge, or highway component is officially designated as a memorial or dedication, and if notification of the memorial or dedication is to be made on the highway right-of-way, such notification should consist of installing a memorial or dedication marker in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location where parking is provided with the signing inconspicuously located relative to vehicle operations along the highway.

Option:

03 **If the installation of a memorial or dedication marker off the main roadway is not practical, memorial or dedication signs may be installed on the mainline.**

Guidance:

04 Memorial or dedication signs should have a white legend and border on a brown background.

Standard:

05 Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the mainline, (1) memorial or dedication names shall not appear on directional guide signs, (2) **memorial or dedication signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other necessary signing, and (3) memorial or dedication signs shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow.** The memorial or dedication signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an **independent sign installation.**

06 Memorial or dedication signs shall be rectangular in shape. **The legend displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be limited to the name of the person or entity**

being recognized and a simple message preceding or following the name, such as "Dedicated to" or "Memorial Parkway." Additional legend, such as biographical information, shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. Decorative or graphical elements, pictographs, logos, or symbols shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. All letters and numerals displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be as provided in the "Standard Highway Signs and Markings" book (see Section 1A.11). The route number or officially mapped name of the highway shall not be displayed on the memorial or dedication sign.

07 Memorial or dedication names shall not appear on supplemental signs or on any other information sign on or along the highway or its intersecting routes.

Option:

08 The lettering for the name of the person or entity being recognized may be composed of a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters.

Guidance:

09 Freeways and expressways should not be signed as memorial or dedicated highways.

Support:

10 Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway. Section 2D.53 contains provisions for the signing of named highways.

- c. Interpretive signs such as site identification signs found at sites of historical or cultural significance; and
 - d. Destination signs
4. The use of such signs shall be limited to conventional roadways with posted speed limits of 40 m.p.h. or less, or with traffic volumes of less than 400 AADT. Such signs shall not be installed on freeways, expressways, parkways, ramps, or similar facilities.
 5. In accordance with Section 2D.43 of the MUTCD, a pictograph may be displayed on a Street Name (D3-1) sign. The pictograph should be located to the left of the legend and shall not exceed the height and width of the upper-case letter height of the principal legend.

2009 Edition Part 2 Figure 2D-10. Street Name and Parking Signs

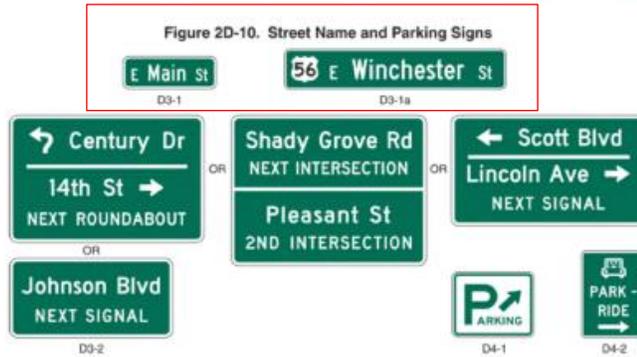


Figure 2D-10. Street Name and Parking Signs

6. Supplemental languages shall not be displayed on any other sign including, but not limited to, Regulatory, Warning (including School Zone), and all other Guide (including Street Name, General or Specific Service, Tourist-Oriented Directional, Auto Tour Route, and Acknowledgment) signs.
7. The legend displayed in the supplemental language shall be limited to the overall name of the tribe or an interior named community or geographic feature within the tribal land. This supplemental legend shall be the idiomatic equivalent of the primary legend that is displayed in English. Additional legend or ancillary phrases shall not be displayed on the signs. Because this supplemental language legend constitutes an increase in the informational load imposed on the driver, decorative elements, pictographs, logos, symbols, or graphical representations shall not be displayed on the sign.
8. Signs displaying a supplemental language shall be post-mounted roadside signs. Such signs shall not be overhead installations.
9. Installation of the signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other necessary signing and shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow. The signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an independent sign installation.
10. All letters and numerals displayed on the sign for the main characters of the alternative language shall be as provided in the *Standard Highway Signs and Markings* reference publication. Unique characters that are necessary for the proper translation to the supplemental language, but not provided in the FHWA Standard Alphabets, may be used. These unique characters are to be kept to a minimum and shall be based on the characteristics of the letter forms of the Standard Alphabets, such as stroke width and arc, to the extent practicable.