

D. O. T. D.  
INTERSTATE SECTION

**LOUISIANA**

**MANUAL ON**

**UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL  
DEVICES**

Furnished by

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF HIGHWAYS  
and  
LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION**

**1978 EDITION**

## FOREWORD

### Legal Authority

Section 235 of Act 310 of 1962 Legislature, as amended by Act 182 Section 1 of the 1968 Legislature states that the Department of Highways (Note: Now Office of Highways of the Department of Transportation and Development) "shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of Title 32, Chapter 1 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and insofar as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials."

It further states that "Local municipal and parish authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall place and maintain such traffic control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction as they may deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter, regulations of the Office of Highways and the Secretary of Public Safety adopted pursuant hereto, and local traffic ordinances adopted pursuant to the authority granted by R.S. 32:41 and 32:42. All such traffic control devices hereafter erected shall conform to the Office of Highways' manual or specifications. If any such device hereafter erected by a political subdivision of this state fails to conform to the manual or specifications, payment of any funds allocated to said political subdivision of this state shall be withheld by the Office of Highways until such time as the standards established by the Office of Highways are complied with."

The Act further states that "no local municipal or parish authority shall place or maintain any traffic control device upon any state maintained highway without having first obtained the written approval of the Office of Highways."

The need for uniformity in traffic control devices has been underlined in recent years by improvements in our state and federal highway system. Driving situations are becoming increasingly complex and demand greater direction and control. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that motorists be given ample information in order that safe and efficient decisions can be made.

In an effort to meet this responsibility, a number of changes in previous methods and practices are being effected. Included among the most notable are a shift from the use of word messages on signs toward greater use of symbolic messages. These and other control measures are reflected in the following manual which has been adopted by the Federal Highway Administration and is officially designated as the Office of Highways' manual of uniform traffic control devices.

It is pointed out that a number of modifications to the national manual are necessary to have it comply with state requirements. Exceptions as indicated in the addendum include the State route markers and shields shown in item 2D-11.

Details of sign layout and fabrication are not included herein, but can be obtained by writing the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Highways, P.O. Box 44245, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.

By adoption of this manual as the Louisiana Manual, the Office of Highways has agreed to have traffic controls on State highways in substantial conformance with the provisions herein as decreed by the Secretary of Transportation and endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration as soon as possible.

All local, municipal and parish authorities are required by law to have traffic control devices under their jurisdiction conform with the contents of this manual and are encouraged to follow the same time schedule as outlined above.

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