STATEWIDE EXIT RENUMBERING PROJECT

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING | DECEMBER 9, 2019
The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is converting all exit numbers on freeways to a milepost-based numbering system, per Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirement.

- Currently, interstates and freeways in Massachusetts utilize a sequential exit numbering method.
States are statutorily required to adopt the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

- The 2009 MUTCD mandated that all states establish a mile-based exit numbering system.

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Delaware are the only three states remaining in non-compliance.

- All others have either fully converted or have started conversion efforts.
MassDOT has committed to FHWA to comply with mileage-based exits by January 2022.

- Non-compliance “could result in withdrawal of Federal-aid funds”

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.

In January 2019, H. 3078 “An Act Establishing Mileage Based Numbering for Exits Along Interstate Highways” was referred to the Joint Committee on Transportation Committee.
Project Benefits

More accurate Emergency Response
• Can improve reporting of highway incidents, resulting in better navigation of emergency services

Driver Friendly Navigation
• Allows drivers to determining distances to destinations quickly
• Miles traveled can be calculated more easily

Reduced Maintenance Costs
• Sign numbering does not need to be changed if new interchanges are added to a route

National uniformity
• Same exit numbering scheme as a majority of the states
Conversion will be implemented on a route-by-route basis, generally starting in Western MA and moving eastward.

- For individual routes, exit numbering conversion will take place east to west or north to south.
- Route 6 will be converted last.

“Old Exit” signs will be installed at each converted exit for a minimum of two years.
Before

After
Exceptions to the new requirement

• For exits leading to the same interchange, lettered exits will be utilized (ex: Exit 50A and 50B)

• Routes that currently do not have exit numbers will not have new exit numbers assigned as part of this project (ex. Route 28, 57, and 79)

• Routes with their first exit less than 1 mile from the state line or the start of the freeway would register as Exit 1. There will be no “Exit 0”.

• 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
Construction Schedule

Conversion will generally begin with routes in Western MA and move eastward. The construction schedule will remain up-to-date on the project's website.

Public Outreach
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

Project Award
Summer 2020

Requests for Proposal
Spring 2020

Begin Construction
Late Summer 2020

Construction Complete
Spring 2021
<table>
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<tr>
<th>FAQs</th>
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<td><strong>How will the program be paid for?</strong></td>
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<td>• The project, which is estimated to cost $2.8 million, 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Will there be any traffic impacts?</strong></td>
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<td>• Minimal impacts to traffic are anticipated 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.</td>
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<td>• New exit signage will be installed during off-peak hours.</td>
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<td><strong>What will happen with recreational and cultural interest area signs?</strong></td>
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<td>• MassDOT will update all recreational and cultural interest signage to reflect new exit numbering system.</td>
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FAQs

How will the project impact businesses?
• Businesses that reference existing exit numbers in their advertising or marketing materials (flyers, brochures, signs, etc.) will need to revise these materials.
• “Old Exit #” signs will be installed under this program and will remain in place for a minimum of 2 years, giving businesses and their customers time to adjust to the new exit numbers during this transition period.

How will I know what my exit number is changing to?
• The interactive map on the project website
• Corridor handouts

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 upcoming conversion. 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.
Public Outreach

• Project Website
• Public and Stakeholder Meetings
• Handouts
• Social media
• Mapping service providers
• Changeable Message Signs
• Public Service Announcements (PSA's) on Digital Billboards
Online Resources

- Project Website: NewMassExits.com
- Project Video
- Interactive Map
- FAQs
- Calendar
- Online Meeting
- Comment Tool
- Downloadable Corridor Handouts