



FACT SHEET

Module 4.4 Strategies for Controlled Access Highways Signs, Signals and Markings

The “Interstate” sign is shaped like a shield and is red, white, and blue in color. Guide signs are rectangular and may be green/white, blue/white, or brown/white depending on where they are guiding the driver. Warning signs are yellow/black or orange/black depending on the area of warning. Regulatory signs (speed limit, etc.) are rectangular shaped and colored black/red/white. Signs may be located beside the roadway or hanging overhead on cross-posts.



I-90 is 552 miles
than



I-115 goes into Butte is less
two miles long



I-15 is 396 miles



I-315 goes into Great Falls and
is less than two miles long



I-94 is 294 miles

Lane markings on expressways mean the same as on any other roadway. The solid yellow line should always be to the driver’s left side. Broken white lines separate lanes of travel going in the same direction. Solid white lines mark the right edge of the roadway or entrance and exit lanes.

Maximum speed limit on limited access highways in Montana is 75 mph outside urban areas of 50,000 population and 65 mph within urban areas of 50,000 population. These fixed speed limits are based on optimal road/weather conditions.

Highway numbering follows a pattern with “mile markers.” The counting always begins at the state line in the south (for north-south routes) and in the west (for east-west routes). North-south routes have odd numbers. Even numbers are assigned to east-west routes. Most routes are one- and two-digit numbers. Alternate routes are usually three-digit. If the first digit is even, the alternate route goes around the city. If it is odd, it leads into the city. Mile marker numbers always get larger as drivers travel east or north. The exits on limited access highways will reflect the mile number where the exit is located as shown in the pictures below.



High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are marked with a white diamond and have restrictions on the number of passengers in vehicles that are traveling in this lane.



Traffic signals on expressways are rare. They may be used as *lane usage* signals.

- A **green arrow** over a lane means that the lane is open for travel.
- A **yellow “X”** over a lane means travel in that lane is about to change or close. The driver should move at least one lane to the right when safe to do so.
- A **red “X”** over a lane means travel in that lane is closed or prohibited.

Green



Yellow



Red

