

Section 2E.2

TOURIST INFORMATION AND WELCOME CENTER SIGNING

2E.2.1 MUTCD SECTION REFERENCE

Tourist Information and Welcome Centers 2I.08

2E.2.2 BACKGROUND

MUTCD section *Tourist Information and Welcome Centers* contains only one specific criterion, Item 3, which states “Continuous staffed or unstaffed operation 8 hours a day, 7 days a week is required.” However, Item 4 of this section states: “Additional criteria as developed by individual States may be used.” Accordingly, the MUTCD permits the states to adopt criteria that are more specific as the criteria prepared by the Department and the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

DOTD and the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism jointly sponsor the Louisiana Welcome Centers at the borders and at regional locations. These State run Welcome Centers shall take precedence over local tourist information centers.

2E.2.3 CRITERIA FOR PLACING SIGN

1. For Interstate routes, signing shall be limited to one tourist information center, per parish, per Interstate route.
2. For non-Interstate routes, signing should be limited to signing for one tourist information center per community.
3. Tourist information centers shall operate all year, 7 days a week, and at least 8 hours a day. The centers may be staffed or unstaffed during these times of operation, but shall be staffed at least five days a week, and at least 40 hours a week. During unstaffed operations, at a minimum, printed material shall be made available to the public including, official state maps and state tour guides.
4. Tourist information centers shall provide statewide travel and tourism information, and should have a person available to provide travelers with knowledgeable directions to area attractions and amenities.
5. Tourist information centers shall provide adequate public visitor services such as restrooms, public telephone (or make a private telephone available to the public), drinking water, adequate parking, and be handicapped accessible as per the Americans Disabilities Act.
6. Tourist information centers signs should not be provided for tourist information centers contained in commercial businesses such as shops, galleries, restaurants, and service stations.
7. All tourist information center signing not meeting this criteria should be identified for removal.
8. For all routes, tourist information centers shall be within 3 miles of the Interstate exit or highway intersection where the initial sign is located.

2E.2.4 APPROVAL

The District Traffic Operations Engineer shall recommend and the Traffic Engineering Management Administrator shall approve.

2E.2.5 SIGN DESIGN

Tourist Information Center signs shall be blue with white legend. On interstates, the signs shall be supplemental panels attached to the advance guide signs. These signs shall typically extend downward from the main sign between the sign posts.

Louisiana Welcome Center signs shall be blue with white legend. The signs shall be primary guide signs for exclusive exits and supplemental guide signs for shared exits.

2E.2.6 LOCATION AND PLACEMENT

Tourist Information signs may be installed as supplemental guide signs or as general service signs. As supplemental signs they may be installed individually or in combination with other qualifying supplemental destinations. As general service signs they shall be installed below existing guide signs or on the legs of cantilever or trusses.

2E.2.7 DOCUMENTATION

The District Traffic Operations Engineer may consider documenting the locations of the community signs by either Control Section – Logmile or GPS coordinates.

Figure 2E.2.1 Example Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs



D9-10
Tourist Information