

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highway
Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch**

STANDARD PRACTICE

FREE FLOW-RIGHT TURN

It is the standard practice of NCDOT to install “Free Flow Right Turn” signs at intersections where traffic traveling in an exclusive right-turn lane is allowed to turn right or free-flow onto a dedicated lane. The continuous flow lane design should meet AASHTO and NCDOT Roadway Design Standards. The exiting through lane should extend for an adequate distance based on the roadway speed to allow a smooth and safe merge condition. Signs shall be located and erected according to the standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the North Carolina Supplement to the MUTCD, and the North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawings.

CRITERIA

Free Flow Right Turn signs may be considered for installation if one of the following conditions is met:

- At any intersection where traffic traveling in an exclusive right-turn lane is allowed to turn right and free-flow onto a dedicated lane at an intersection safely without yielding.
- At the intersection of a freeway/expressway exit ramp where exiting traffic, traveling in an exclusive right-turn lane, is allowed to turn right and free-flow safely onto a dedicated lane safely without yielding.
- Sign designs for “Free Flow Right Turn” shall conform to the attached, approved NCDOT standards.

NOTE:

See “2001 AASHTO Green Book” Exhibit 10-70 on Page 851 for guidance on recommended lengths for a dedicated lane based on acceleration factors. See attached copy