

## North Carolina Department of Transportation's Guidelines for Installation of Work Zone Service Signs

### Purpose:

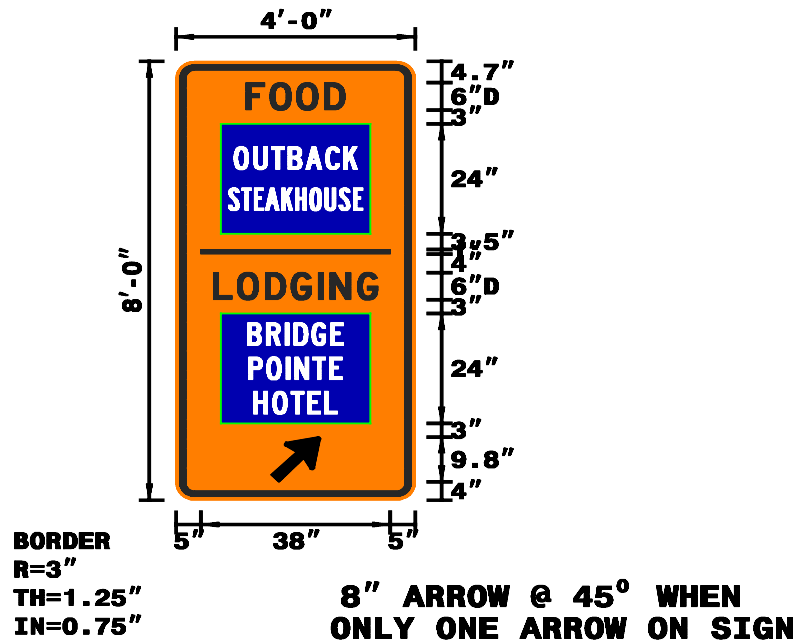
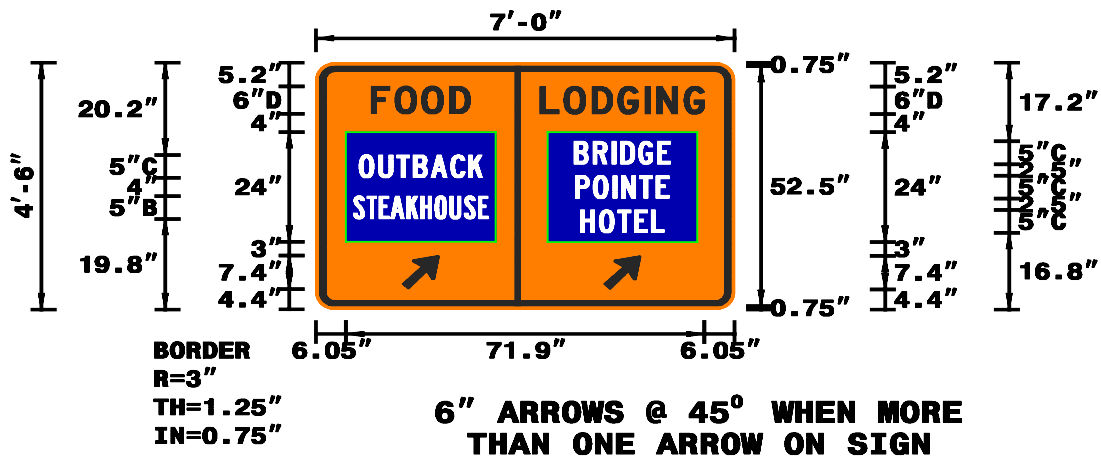
The purpose of these signs is to provide guidance to motorist services in cases where these type businesses are greatly affected by extended construction projects. These signs are not intended for application during routine construction projects that may divert traffic. **It is intended for the rare situations where traffic is completely diverted in excess of 18 months, there is a full closure of the transportation link, and all signed detours directs traffic away from these motorist services.**

1. Work Zone Service (WZS) signs are temporary signs installed on ramps of fully controlled access interchanges within the limits of a highway construction project or locations directly effected by the construction of the project. These signs assist motorists in locating essential services (Gas, Food, and Lodging only) that would otherwise be difficult for motorists to find due to roadway closures, limited access, or detours.
2. WZS signs include the name of businesses in maximum 5" letters and may require abbreviation. Work zone service signs shall not contain logos for business.
3. WZS signs are only available to Gas, Food, or Lodging businesses that the Department determines will experience (or is experiencing) undue hardship to their business caused directly by the highway construction project.
4. All costs for WZS signs, including investigation, design, fabrication, installation, inspection, maintenance, and future removal shall be paid by the business. The business will be required to enter into a reimbursable agreement with NCDOT for any and all WZS signs.
5. To qualify, a maximum of three gas, food, and lodging businesses can exist at the interchange or location. If more than three gas, food, or lodging businesses are located at the interchange, the Department has determined that the businesses will generate the traffic flow without WZS signs.
6. If Specific Service (Logo) signing exists at the interchange, the businesses do not qualify for WZS signing. The Logo signs would be required to be maintained during construction, rather than installing this additional signing.
7. WZS sign designs shall include a fluorescent orange background with non-reflective black text, border and arrow. The service panel shall be blue with white letters specifying the name of the business in 5" letters. See example designs for use at/near the top of the exit ramp.
8. WZS signs may be installed at or near the top of the ramp or further down the ramp with a directional arrow and mileage included on the sign. Signs shall not be installed along the mainline.
9. If trailblazing is required, blue and white general service signing (GAS, FOOD, or LODGING with directional arrow) may be installed. Business names are not allowed on trailblazers unless the Department determines necessary to distinguish routing to different businesses of the same service type.

10. WZS signs are not allowed at locations where the business can not be reasonably accessed or where more than three turns are required to access the business, including the turn at the bottom of the ramp.
11. WZS signs and any trailblazing signing shall be removed at the completion of the project.
12. WZS signs shall be located with adequate spacing from other signs, and shall not block the view of other signs. A WZS sign shall not be located where the sign could cause a sight distance problem for a motorist.
13. WZS signs are only allowed as ground mounted signs. No overhead WZS signs are allowed.
14. Regulatory, warning, and any separate guide signs shall have a higher priority than WZS signs.
15. The request for WZS signs must be submitted in writing to the appropriate Division Engineer. The requester should include an explanation of the adverse affect on the business and may be required to supply the Department with documentation, such as decreased sales. The Division Engineer, after coordination with the State Traffic Engineer, will make the determination if the request is approved.
16. WZS signs may be determined necessary by the Department prior to or during the highway construction process. In this case, the Division Engineer or designate will coordinate this effort with the affected business(es) and with the TESSB. If the process is initiated by the Department, a written request from the business is not required. Regardless of how process or request for WZS signs is initiated, all costs for signs shall be paid by the business(es).
17. As described in General Statute 136-30 (a), (b), and (d), the Department has the authority to control all signs within the right-of-way of the State Highway System.

**§ G.S. 136-30. Uniform signs and other traffic control devices on highways, streets, and public vehicular areas.** (a) State Highway System. - The Department of Transportation may number and mark highways in the State highway system. All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a highway in the State highway system must conform to the Uniform Manual. The Department of Transportation shall have the power to control all signs within the right-of-way of highways in the State highway system. The Department of Transportation may erect signs directing persons to roads and places of importance. (b) Municipal Street System. - All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a municipal street system street must conform to the appearance criteria of the Uniform Manual. All traffic control devices placed on a highway that is within the corporate limits of a municipality but is part of the State highway system must be approved by the Department of Transportation. (d) Definition. - As used in this section, the term "Uniform Manual" means the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, published by the United States Department of Transportation, and any supplement to that Manual adopted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

## EXAMPLE DESIGNS



### Notes:

1. Blue service panel shall be limited to 36" X 24". Text within panel shall be a maximum of 5" letters.
2. The NCDOT will determine and provide the final design.