

Date: August 24, 2005

**TO:** All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning & Major Projects  
All Regional Directors  
All District Managers, Transportation  
Manager, Provincial Sign Program

**Subject: POLICY FOR USE OF “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” SIGN**

**Replaces/Amends:** Manual of Standard Traffic Signs & Pavement Markings - new policy

**Background:**

BC MoT historically used the SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT on climbing/passing lanes and multi-lane highways.

The “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” sign is a regulatory sign recognized in the Canadian MUTCD for use in advance of climbing and passing lanes to direct slower traffic to the right lane, allowing vehicles to pass in the left lane in the uphill direction.

Public demand for this sign on multi-lane roadways has increased over the years and the use of this sign may be justified in some circumstances. Therefore the “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” sign will become part of the MoT standard sign inventory for use as discussed below.

Both signs are recognized in the BC MVA Regulations, Division 23.

**Policy**

**1.0 Application**

The “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” sign should be used in place of the R-7 “SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT” sign in the following cases:

- 1.1 On 2-lane highways in advance of climbing lanes and passing lanes where passing is prohibited in the opposing (downhill) direction. In locations where passing is permitted, the R-7 “SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT” must be retained. For those longer auxiliary lanes where opposing passing and no-passing zones exist, maintain the “SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT” signs for the total length of the auxiliary lane.
- 1.2 On divided multi-lane highways where the two-way traffic volume is  $\leq 20,000$ AADT
- 1.3 On expressways only where signal spacing is  $\geq 5$  kilometers.

## 2.0 Sign Spacing

AADT >12,000 but <20,000	Approximately every 10 km
AADT ≥ 20,000	Every 10 -15 km

Any existing R-7 “SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT” signs must be removed where the “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” sign is used instead.

## 3.0 Sign Number

The KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS sign will be sign number R-28 and a design sheet is included in the Sign Pattern Manual.

## 4.0 BE COURTEOUS, KEEP RIGHT... Sign

In situations where the R-28 “KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS” is not used and the R-7 “SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT” is in place, the I-60 ‘BE COURTEOUS, KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS’ sign may be erected to advise road users to keep to the right hand travel lane whenever possible. The I-60 sign should be repeated every 8-10km as required on a highway segment.

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