



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0350

**INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN No. 05-28**

**Regarding the Use of Lane Closure with Left Hand Merge  
Standard Drawing T-WZ-21 (TM-WZ-21)**

**Effective for the December 13, 2005 letting**, controlled access projects which utilize lane closure details shall be reviewed for the inclusion of Merge Left. Interstate construction or maintenance projects where traffic is reduced to one lane of traffic through the work zone are the primary candidates.

The following criteria will be used for determining Merge Left use:

- Projects on rural interstates should include Merge Left.
- Projects on urban interstates will be reviewed for Merge Left considering factors such as number of lanes, interchange spacing, and proximity to major splits.
- Other controlled access facilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**The Assistant Director, Design Division, shall be notified in writing for any interstate or controlled access facility with lane closures not utilizing Merge Left prior to finalizing the traffic control. The memorandum shall contain the reasons left merge would be inappropriate.**

Standard Drawing T-WZ-21 (TM-WZ-21) details Merge Left. The layout and signage may require modification depending on site and field conditions.

The designer will provide quantities for a uniformed police officer which will be paid for under Item No. 712-08.06 Uniformed Police Officer per hour. The Region Construction Supervisor is to be contacted in order to establish the number of hours to be shown in the plans on a case-to-case basis by the Design Manager.

This bulletin replaces Instructional Bulletin No. 05-10 which was previously voided by Instructional Bulletin No. 05-21.

Original signed by Jeff C. Jones  
Jeff C. Jones, C. E. Director  
Design Division

JCJ:MA:ma  
October 27, 2005