KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SPECIAL PROVISION TO THE
STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS, 2015 EDITION

Add a new SECTION in DIVISION 1700.

PORTABLE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

1.0 DESCRIPTION

      This specification covers Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) for use in communicating information to drivers as a supplement to, or in some cases in place of, project signing.

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

      Provide PCMS that comply with the Contract Documents and the MUTCD, with the following additions and exceptions in regard to the components:

- A message sign with the ability to display at least 3 lines of text with a minimum 8 characters per line where characters are 18 inches high and 12 inches wide.
- A sign with yellow or orange characters displayed on a black background.
- Displays shall have an automatic control for lamp intensity, backed up by a manual switch and be capable of dimming 50% from the rated lamp voltage for nighttime operation.
- The color of the characters shall be yellow or orange.

      Messages used must meet the following requirements:

      (1) Restrict messages to two screens, when possible. Use no more than 3 screens of information and only if there is adequate sight distance for drivers to read and understand 3 screens at the posted speed.

      (2) Each unit of information answers one of the following questions:

Question	Example of 1 unit of information (answer)
What happened?	NARROW LANES
Where did it happen?	AT EXIT 12
Who is the advisory for?	[drivers heading] TO KANSAS CITY
What action should they take?	USE I-70

      (3) Post messages so that each screen conveys whole units of information, not partial units of information. Each screen must be understandable on its own.

Screen #1	Screen #2
NARROW	USE I-70
LANES AT	FOR
EXIT 12	KS CITY

      (4) Character heights shall be 18 inches high and 12 inches wide.

      (5) Abbreviations should only be used when necessary. A full list of approved abbreviations can be found in the MUTCD, including a list of conditionally approved abbreviations that require prompt words. A condensed list of frequently used and approved abbreviations follows:

Word Message	Abbreviation	Word Message	Abbreviation
Afternoon/Evening	PM	Minutes	MIN
Alternate	ALT	Shoulder	SHLDR
East	E	Pedestrian	PED