



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

May 27, 2011

Mark Kehrl
Director of the Office of Transportation Operations
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., HOTO-1
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Kehrl:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) requests interim approval to install the alternate Electrical Vehicle Charging symbol sign (D9-11b – Alternate).

WSDOT will implement the installation of Electrical Vehicle Charging symbol sign as stipulated in FHWA's Interim Approval Memorandum for the use Electrical Vehicle Charging Symbol sign, dated April 1, 2011. WSDOT will maintain a sign inventory for all locations placed on public roadways in Washington State.

WSDOT agrees to restore the site(s) of the interim approval to a condition that complies with the provisions in the MUTCD within three months following the issuance of a Final Rule on Electrical Vehicle Charging symbol signs. WSDOT also agrees to terminate the use of the Electrical Vehicle Charging symbol signs, if the implementation of this interim approval creates any direct or indirect significant concern.

Thank you for your consideration on our request for interim approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Nisbet'.

John Nisbet, P.E.
State Traffic Engineer

JN:rm

cc: Don Petersen, FHWA – Washington State Division Office
Tonia Buell



U. S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Washington Division

Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza
711 South Capitol Way
Olympia, Washington 98501-1284
(360) 753-9480
(360) 753-9889 (FAX)
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/wadiv>

April 13, 2011

HDE-WA/520.71-WAP951

Ms. Paula J. Hammond
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Olympia, Washington

Attention: John Nisbet

**Interim Approval for Optional Use of an
Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging
General Service Symbol Sign**

Dear Ms. Hammond:

The purpose of this letter is two-fold. The first is to inform you that the FHWA Office of Transportation Operations has issued an Interim Approval (see enclosure) for the optional use of a General Service symbol sign that provides road users direction to electric vehicle charging facilities that are open to the public. Interim Approval allows interim use, pending official rulemaking, of a new traffic control device, a revision to the application or manner of use of an existing traffic control device, or a provision not specifically described in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD). Secondly, WSDOT must submit a formal request to use the alternative sign and agree to comply with the technical conditions detailed below.

The FHWA Office of Transportation Operations has reviewed available data and considers the alternative sign (see attachment, p. IA-13-1) to be satisfactorily successful for the application of providing direction to an electric vehicle charging station. The alternative sign provides agencies with a means of directing road users to an electric vehicle charging station without the use of a word legend sign or supplemental plaque, thus reducing the informational load presented to the observer and promoting a uniform symbol for this general service.

The design of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign is not proprietary and can be used by any jurisdiction that requests and obtains interim approval from the FHWA to use the sign. The FHWA believes that the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign has a low risk of safety or operational concerns.



4. Other:

Except as otherwise provided above, all other provisions of the MUTCD applicable to signs shall apply to the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging General Service symbol sign.

Please contact Don Petersen at (360) 534-9323 if you have any questions regarding this action

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.
Division Administrator



By: Donald A. Petersen
Division Safety/Design Engineer

Enclosure

cc: Rick Mowlds, MS47344



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** MUTCD – Interim
Approval for Optional Use of an
Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging
General Service Symbol Sign

Date: APR 1 - 2011

From: Jeffrey A. Lindley
Associate Administrator for Operations

In Reply Refer To:
HOTO-1

To: Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers
Division Administrators

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to issue an Interim Approval for the optional use of a General Service symbol sign that provides road users direction to electric vehicle charging facilities that are open to the public. Interim Approval allows interim use, pending official rulemaking, of a new traffic control device, a revision to the application or manner of use of an existing traffic control device, or a provision not specifically described in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD).

Background: The Oregon and Washington departments of transportation have requested that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) consider alternative symbols for the current Electric Vehicle Charging General Service symbol (D9-11b) sign shown in Figure 2I-1 of the 2009 Edition of the MUTCD in anticipation of deploying electric vehicle charging facilities in these and four other states. The current symbol is a modification of the existing Gas General Service symbol (D9-7), into which the legend EV has been incorporated, similar to Alternative Fuel symbols such as diesel (D), compressed natural gas (CNG), and ethanol (E85). The request was predicated on the presumption that, for electric vehicle charging facilities, the fuel pump and hose of the Alternative Fuel symbols do not apply or could be confusing. Instead, the representation of an electrical cord was thought to be more appropriate. A new symbol was evaluated and subsequently recommended by a Traffic Control Devices Pooled-Fund Study report. However, the requesting agencies believe that the presence of a lightning bolt within this symbol suggests a risk of electrical shock, which would discourage the use of electric vehicles.

Research on the Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging Symbol Sign: In November 2010, a report of the Traffic Control Devices Pooled-Fund Study that evaluated several alternative symbols for electric vehicle charging was released. The symbol that had the greatest comprehension and legibility distance was a modification of the symbol used on the Electric Vehicle Charging (D9-11b) sign in the 2009 MUTCD, with the hose replaced by a power cord and plug and the addition of a lightning bolt within the pump window to convey an electrical charge. A similar version without the lightning bolt element was not



“An agreement to restore the site(s) of the Interim Approval to a condition that complies with the provisions in this Manual within 3 months following the issuance of a Final Rule on this traffic control device; and terminate use of the device or application installed under the interim approval at any time that it determines significant safety concerns are directly or indirectly attributable to the device or application. The FHWA’s Office of Transportation Operations has the right to terminate the interim approval at any time if there is an indication of safety concerns.”

1. General Conditions:

The use of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign is optional. However, if an agency opts to use this sign under this Interim Approval, the following design and installation requirements shall apply and shall take precedence over any conflicting provisions of the MUTCD.

2. Allowable Uses:

Installation and use of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign shall conform to the general provisions for General Services signs in accordance with MUTCD Chapter 2I.

3. Sign Design and Size:

- a. The design of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign shall be as shown in the attached sign detail.
- b. The minimum size of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign shall be 24 inches in width by 24 inches in height.
- c. The size of the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging symbol sign shall otherwise be in accordance with those of other D9-11 series signs.

4. Other:

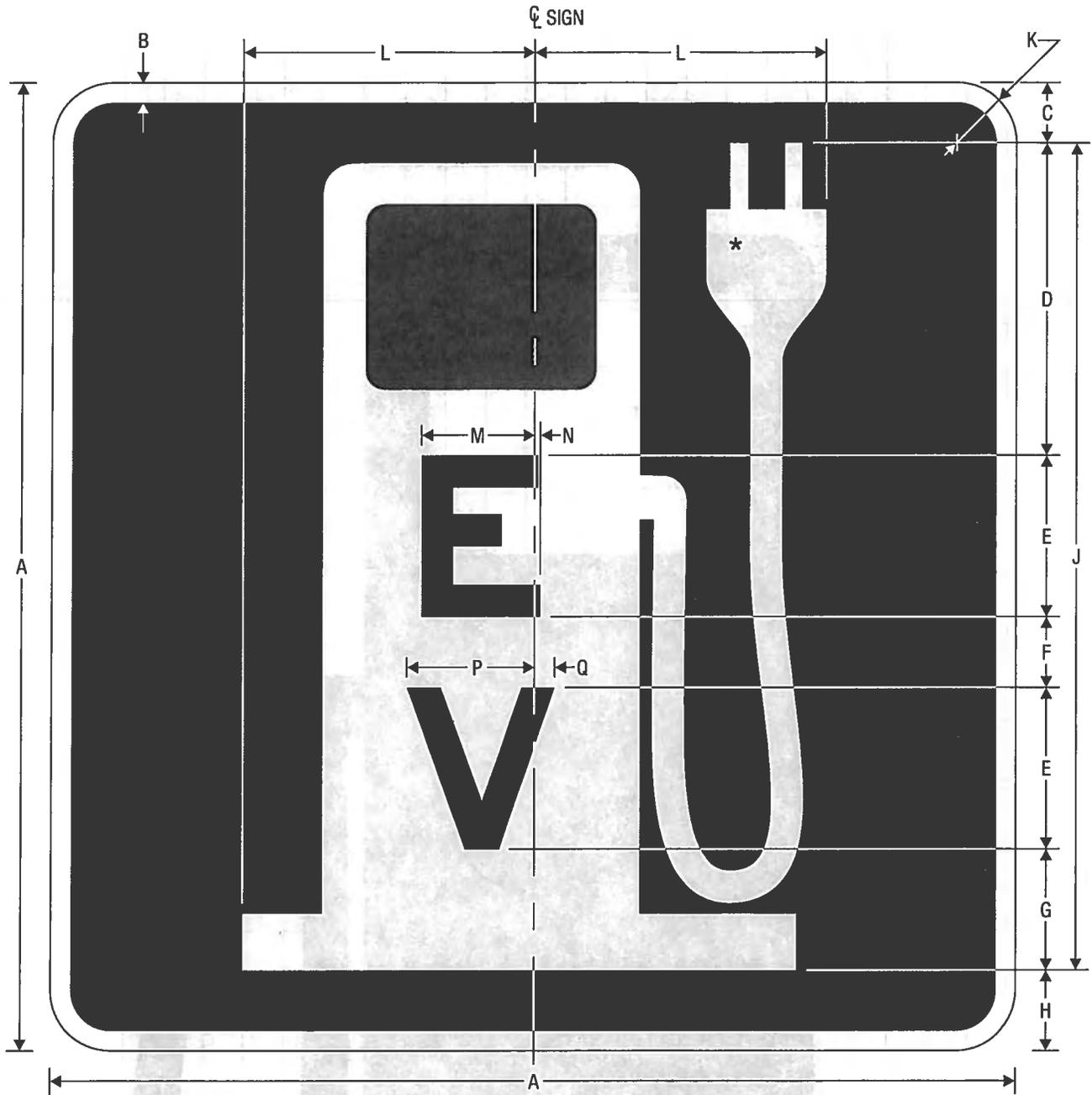
Except as otherwise provided above, all other provisions of the MUTCD applicable to signs shall apply to the alternative Electric Vehicle Charging General Service symbol sign.

Any questions concerning this Interim Approval should be directed to Mr. Kevin Sylvester at Kevin.Sylvester@dot.gov.

Attachment

cc:

Associate Administrators
Chief Counsel
Chief Financial Officer
Directors of Field Services
Director of Technical Services



D9-11b (Alternate)
 Electric Vehicle Charging (Alternate Symbol)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M
C	24	0.5	1.5	7.75	4 E(m)	1.75	3	2	20.5	1.5	7.25	2.814
	30	0.75	1.875	9.625	5 E(m)	2	4	2.5	25.625	1.875	9.063	3.518

N	P	Q
0.148	3.174	0.507
0.185	3.968	0.635

* See page IA-13-2 for symbol design

COLORS: LEGEND, BACKGROUND — BLUE (RETROREFLECTIVE)
 SYMBOL, BORDER — WHITE (RETROREFLECTIVE)