

## CHAPTER 2F. TOLL HIGHWAY SIGNS

### Section 2F.01 Scope

Support:

- 01 Toll highways are typically limited-access freeway or expressway facilities. A portion of or an entire route might be a toll highway, or a bridge, tunnel, or other crossing point might be the only toll portion of a highway. A toll highway might be a conventional road. The general signing requirements for toll **highways** will depend on the type of facility and access (freeway, expressway, or conventional road). The provisions of Chapters 2D and 2E will generally apply for guide signs along the toll **highway** that direct road users within and off the facility where exit points and geometric configurations are not dependent specifically on the collection of tolls. The aspect of tolling and the presence of toll plazas or collection points necessitate additional considerations in the typical signing needs. The notification of the collection of tolls in advance of and at entry points to the toll highway also necessitate additional modifications to the typical signing.
- 02 The scope of this Section applies to a **highway** or facility on which all lanes are tolled. Chapter 2G contains provisions for the signing of managed lanes within an otherwise **untolled highway** that employ tolling or pricing as an operational strategy to manage congestion levels.

**Standard:**

- 03 **Except where specifically provided in this Chapter, the provisions of other Chapters in Part 2 shall apply to toll highways.**
- 03a **Along State owned, operated, and maintained roadways, ETL and toll plaza signing shall conform to the Maryland Transportation Authority Standards. These standards can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.**

### Section 2F.02 Sizes of Toll Highway Signs

**Standard:**

- 01 **Except as provided in Section 2A.11, the sizes of toll **highway** signs that have standardized designs shall be as shown in Table 2F-1.**

Support:

- 02 Section 2A.11 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns in Table 2F-1.

**Table 2F-1. Toll Highway Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes**

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road		Expressway	Freeway	Minimum	Oversized
			Single Lane	Multi-Lane				
Toll Rate	R3-28(1)	2F.05	—	288 x 72	288 x 72	288 x 72	—	—
Toll Booth Toll Rate	R3-28(2)	2F.05	30 x 36	30 x 36	30 x 36	30 x 36	—	—
Ramp Toll Rate	R3-28(3)	2F.05	—	—	48 x 48	48 x 48	—	—
Pay Toll Advance Warning (plaque)	W9-6P(1)	2F.07	—	288* x 36	288* x 36	288* x 36	—	—
Last Exit Before Toll (plaque)	W16-16P	2F.10	—	—	252* x 36	252* x 36	—	—
Last Exit Before Toll (plaque)	W16-16P(1)	2F.10	30 x 36	30 x 36	—	—	—	—
Toll	M4-15	2F.11	24 x 12	24 x 12	36 x 18	36 x 18	24 x 12	36 x 18
No Cash	M4-16	2F.12	24 x 12	24 x 12	36 x 18	36 x 18	24 x 12	36 x 18
Cash/ETC Canopy	M4-17(1)	2F.16	—	120 x 48	120 x 48	120 x 48	—	—
ETC Only	M4-20	2F.12	24 x 24	24 x 24	36 x 36	36 x 36	24 x 24	36 x 36
ETC Only Canopy	M4-20(1)	2F.16	—	120 x 48	120 x 48	120 x 48	—	—
ETC Only/Vehicle Restriction Canopy	M4-20(2)	2F.16	—	120 x 48	120 x 48	120 x 48	—	—
Toll Lane Number	MDTA 03.01	2F.16	30 x 30	30 x 30	30 x 30	30 x 30	30 x 30	36 x 30

\* The width shown represents the minimum dimension. The width shall be increased as appropriate to match the width of the guide sign.

Notes: 1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate

2. Dimensions in inches are shown as width x height

3. Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll roads can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.

## Option:

- 03 Signs larger than those shown in Table 2F-1 may be used (see Section 2A.11).

## Support:

- 03a Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll highways can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) standard sign book. The MDTA's standard sign book is located at [www.mdtta.maryland.gov](http://www.mdtta.maryland.gov).

**Section 2F.03 Use of Purple Backgrounds and Underlay Panels with ETC Account Pictographs****Standard:**

- 01 Use of the color purple on any sign shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1A.12 and 2A.10. Except as provided in Sections 2F.12 and 2F.16, purple as a background color shall be used only when the information associated with the appropriate ETC account is displayed on that portion of the sign. The background color of the remaining portion of such signs shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1A.12 and 2A.10 as appropriate for a regulatory, warning, or guide sign. Purple shall not be used as a background color to display a destination, action message, or other legend that is not a display of the requirement for all vehicles to have a registered ETC account.

- 02 If only vehicles with registered ETC accounts are allowed to use a highway lane, a toll plaza lane, an open-road tolling lane, or all lanes of a toll highway or connection, the signs for such lanes or highways shall incorporate the pictograph (see Chapter 2A) adopted by the toll facility's ETC payment system and the regulatory message ONLY. Except for ETC pictographs whose predominant background color is purple, if incorporated within the green background of a guide sign, the ETC pictograph shall be on a white rectangular or square panel set on a purple underlay panel with a white border. For rectangular ETC pictographs whose predominant background color is purple, a white border shall be used at the outer edges of the purple rectangle to provide contrast between the pictograph and the sign background color.

- 02a The MDTA employs a prepaid Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) account system called E-ZPass®. Motorists who do not have an account and utilize a designated E-ZPass only toll highway or toll plaza lane are issued a statement which may include an administrative fee in addition to the toll amount.

- 03 If an ETC pictograph is used on a separate plaque with a guide sign or on a header panel within a guide sign, the plaque or the header panel shall have a purple background with a white border and the ETC pictograph shall have a white border to provide contrast between the pictograph and the background of the plaque or header panel.

- 03a The MDTA's ETC Pictograph shall have a white legend on a purple background. Details for the pictograph can be obtained from the MDTA standard sign book.

## Support:

- 03b The MDTA's standard sign book is located at [www.mdtta.maryland.gov](http://www.mdtta.maryland.gov).

- 04 Purple underlay panels for ETC pictographs or purple backgrounds for plaques and header panels shall only be used in the manner described in Paragraphs 1 through 3 to convey the requirement of a registered ETC account on signs for lanes reserved exclusively for vehicles with such an account and on directional signs to an ETC account-only facility from an untolled facility or from a tolled facility that accepts multiple payment forms.

## Support:

- 05 Figure 2F-1 shows examples of ETC account pictographs, their use with various background colors, and modifications involving underlay panels.

- 06 Section 2F.04 contains provisions regarding the size of pictographs for ETC accounts.

**Section 2F.04 Size of ETC Pictographs****Standard:**

- 01 The ETC pictograph (see Chapter 2A) shall be of a size that makes it a prominent feature of the sign legend as necessary for conspicuity for those road users with registered ETC accounts seeking such direction, as well as for those road users who do not have ETC accounts so that it is clear to them to avoid such direction when applicable.

## Support:

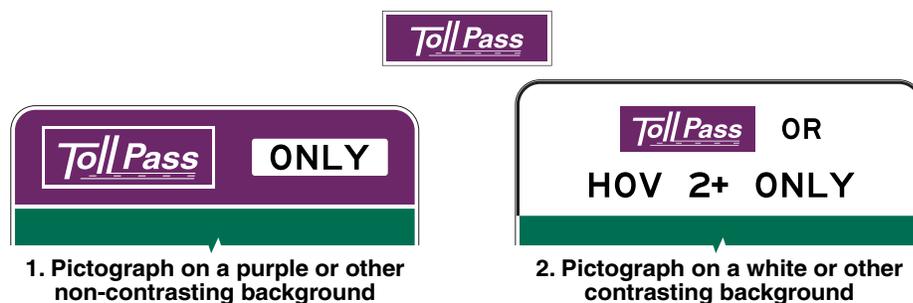
- 01a The minimum sizes of the MDTA ETC Pictograph can be obtained from the MDTA standard sign book. The MDTA's standard sign book is located at [www.mdtta.maryland.gov](http://www.mdtta.maryland.gov).

## Guidance:

- 02 An ETC pictograph that is in the shape of a horizontal rectangle should have a minimum height between approximately 1.5 and 2 times the upper-case letter height of the principal legend on the sign. The width of an ETC pictograph in the shape of a horizontal rectangle should be between approximately two and three times the

## Figure 2F-1. Examples of ETC Account Pictographs and Use of Purple Backgrounds and Underlay Panels

### A - PICTOGRAPH DESIGN WITH A PURPLE BACKGROUND AND A WHITE CONTRASTING BORDER



height of the pictograph. When the pictograph is the principal legend on the sign, such as for advance guide signs for open-road tolling lanes (see Section 2F.15), the minimum height of a horizontal rectangular ETC pictograph should be consistent with that of a route shield prescribed for the particular application and type of sign.

- 03 For ETC pictographs whose shape is square, circular, or otherwise similar in height and width, or is a vertical rectangle, the same basic principles for conspicuity and placement should be followed. ETC pictographs whose shape is not in that of a horizontal rectangle should be suitably sized to facilitate conspicuity as described in Paragraph 1 and should be of a similar approximate area as the horizontal rectangular pictographs designed in accordance with the height and width as provided in Paragraph 2.

### Section 2F.05 Regulatory Signs for Toll Plazas

Support:

- 01 Toll plaza operations often include lane-specific restrictions on vehicle type, forms of payment accepted, and speed limits or required stops. Vehicles are typically required to come to a stop to pay the toll or receive a toll ticket in the attended and exact change or automatic lanes. Electronic toll collection (ETC) lanes with favorable geometrics typically allow vehicles to move through the toll plaza without stopping, but usually within a set regulatory speed limit or advisory speed. In some ETC lanes and in most lanes that accommodate non-ETC vehicles, a stop might be required while the ETC payment is processed because of geometric or other conditions.

Guidance:

- 02 Regulatory signs applicable only to a particular lane or lanes should be located in a position that makes their applicability clear to road users approaching the toll plaza.
- 03 Regulatory signs, or regulatory panels within guide signs, indicating restrictions on vehicle type and forms of toll payment accepted at a specific toll plaza lane should be installed over the applicable lane either on the toll plaza canopy or on a separate structure immediately in advance of the canopy located in a manner such that each sign is clearly related to an individual toll lane.

Support:

- 04 Section 2F.13 contains information regarding the incorporation of regulatory messages into guide signs for toll plazas.

- 05 Section 2F.16 contains information regarding the design and use of toll plaza canopy signs.

Guidance:

- 06 One or more Speed Limit (R2-1 with [MDTA-02.11](#)) signs (see Section 2B.13) should be installed in the locations provided in Paragraph 8 for an ETC-Only lane at a toll plaza in which an enforceable regulatory speed limit is established for a lane in which it is intended that vehicles move through the toll plaza without stopping while toll payments requiring stops occur in other lanes at the toll plaza. The speed limit displayed on the signs should be based on an engineering study taking into account the geometry of the plaza and the lanes and other appropriate safety and operational factors.
- 07 A Speed Limit (R2-1) sign should not be installed for a toll plaza lane that is controlled by a STOP (R1-1) sign or where a stop is required.

Option:

- 08 Speed limit signs may be installed over the applicable lane on the toll plaza canopy, on the approach end of the toll booth island, or on the toll canopy support piers. Diagonally downward or downward-pointing directional arrows may be used to supplement the speed limit signs if an engineering study or engineering judgment indicates that the arrow is needed to clarify the applicability of a sign to a specific lane or to improve compliance.

**Standard:**

09 **A STOP (R1-1) sign shall not be installed for a toll plaza lane that is operated as an ETC-Only lane and that is designed for tolls to be collected while vehicles continue moving.**

Option:

10 A STOP (R1-1) sign may be installed to require vehicles to come to a complete stop to pay a toll in an attended or exact change lane, even if that lane is also available for optional use by vehicles with registered ETC accounts. A PAY TOLL (R3-29P) or TAKE TICKET (R3-30P) plaque (see Figure 2F-2), as appropriate to the operation, may be installed directly under the STOP (R1-1) sign for a toll plaza lane, if needed.

11 The mounting height of the STOP sign and any supplemental plaque may be less than the normal mounting height requirements if constrained by the physical features of the toll island or toll plaza.

12 The lateral offset of a STOP or other regulatory sign located within a toll plaza island may be reduced to a minimum of 1 foot from the face of the toll island or raised barrier to the nearest edge of the sign.

Guidance:

13 *If used, a STOP (R1-1) sign for a toll plaza cash payment lane should be located in a longitudinal position as near as practical to the point where a vehicle is expected to stop to pay the toll or take a ticket.*

Option:

14 Toll Rate (R3-28) sign is not used in Maryland.

Guidance:

15 *Toll Rate (R3-28) sign is not used in Maryland.*

**Standard:**

15a **A Toll Rate (R3-28(1)) sign (see Figure 2F-2) with a Pay Toll Advance Warning (W9-6P(1)) shall be installed in advance of the toll plaza to indicate the distance to the toll and the toll amount applicable to two-axle vehicles. The R3-28(1) sign with W9-6P(1) plaque shall be located prior to the first advance guide sign for the toll plaza and be located prior to the upstream interchange/intersection signed as the last exit before toll. At the last upstream interchange a Ramp Toll Rate (R3-28(3)) sign shall be placed on the entrance ramps heading towards the toll plaza.**

16 *The R3-2 (1) sign should not contain more than three lines of legend. Each line that shows a toll amount should display only a single toll amount.*

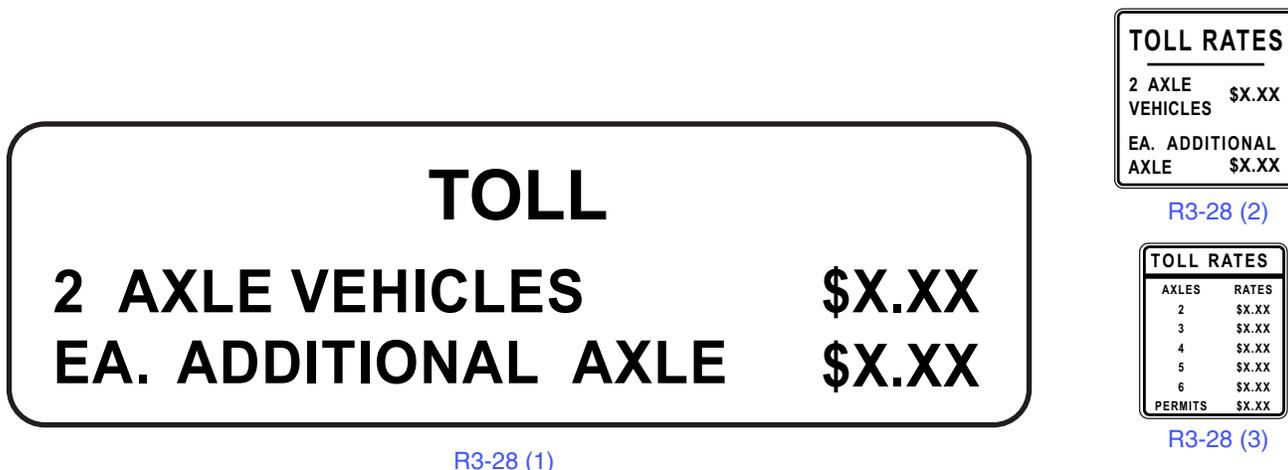
Option:

17 Additional toll rate information exceeding three lines of legend may be displayed on the toll booth adjacent to the payment window of an attended lane or the payment receptacle of an exact change or automatic lane where it is visible to a road user who has stopped to pay the toll, but is not visible to approaching road users who have not yet entered the toll lane.

**Section 2F.06 Pay Toll Advance Warning Sign (W9-6)**

**Pay Toll Advance Warning Sign (W9-6) shall not be used in Maryland.**

**Figure 2F-2. Toll Plaza Regulatory Signs and Plaques**



**Section 2F.07 Pay Toll Advance Warning Plaque (W9-6P(1))**

**Standard:**

- 01 The Pay Toll Advance Warning (W9-6P(1)) plaque (see Figure 2F-3) shall be installed above the appropriate guide sign(s) relating to toll payment types at the 1-mile and/or 1/2-mile advance locations on the approach to a toll plaza if there is insufficient space for the W9-6 sign (see Section 2F.06) at those advance locations.
- 02 The W9-6P(1) plaque shall be a horizontal rectangle with black legend and border on a yellow background. The legend shall include the distance to the toll plaza. Where the toll for passenger or 2-axle vehicles is variable by time of day, a changeable message element shall be incorporated into the R3-28(1) sign to display the toll in effect.

**Section 2F.08 Stop Ahead Pay Toll Warning Sign (W9-6a)**

Stop Ahead Pay Toll Warning Sign (W9-6a) shall not be used in Maryland.

**Section 2F.09 Stop Ahead Pay Toll Warning Plaque (W9-6aP)**

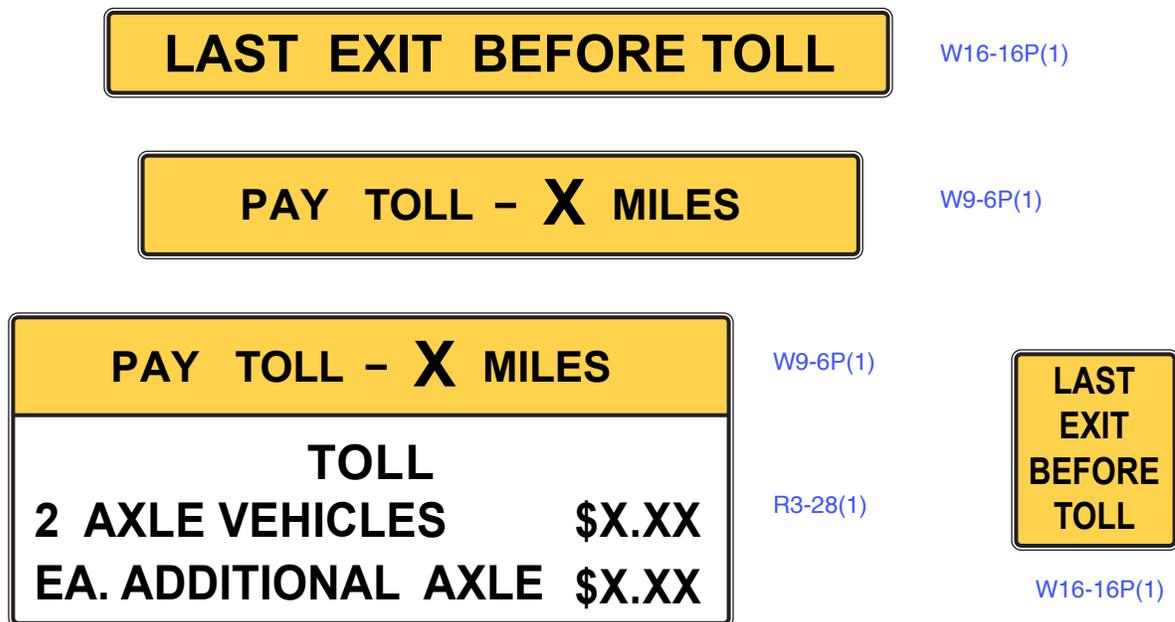
Stop Ahead Pay Toll Warning Plaque (W9-6aP) shall not be used in Maryland.

**Section 2F.10 LAST EXIT BEFORE TOLL Warning Plaques (W16-16P and W16-16P(1))**

**Standard:**

- 01 The LAST EXIT BEFORE TOLL Warning (W16-16P) plaque (see Figure 2F-3) shall be used to notify road users of the last exit from a highway before it becomes a facility on which toll payments are required. The plaque shall be installed above or below the appropriate guide signs for the exit (see Sections 2E.30 and 2E.33).
- 01a The W16-16P(1) plaque shall be installed below applicable Intersection Warning signs (W2-1 through W2-8), Signal Ahead signs (W3-3), and/or Advance Street Name signs (D3-2) along conventional roadways.
- 02 The W16-16P and W16-16P(1) plaques shall have a black legend and border on a yellow background.

Figure 2F-3. Toll Plaza Warning Signs and Plaques



**Section 2F.11 TOLL Auxiliary Warning Sign (M4-15)**

**Standard:**

01 The TOLL (M4-15) auxiliary warning sign (see Figure 2F-4) shall have a black legend and border on a yellow background and shall be mounted directly above the route sign of a numbered toll highway or, if used, above the cardinal direction and alternative route auxiliary signs, in any route sign assembly providing directions from a **untolled** highway to the tolled highway or to a segment of a highway on which the payment of a toll is required.

**Section 2F.12 Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) Account-Only Auxiliary Signs (M4-16 and M4-20)**

**Standard:**

01 In any route sign assembly providing directions from a **untolled** highway to a tolled **highway**, or to a tolled segment of a highway, where electronic toll collection (ETC) is the only payment method accepted and all vehicles are required to have a registered ETC account, the ETC Account-Only (M4-20) auxiliary sign (see Figure 2F-4) shall be mounted directly below the route sign of the numbered or named toll **highway**. The M4-20 auxiliary sign shall have a white border and purple background and incorporate the pictograph adopted by the toll facility's ETC payment system and the word **ONLY** with black **legend and border** on a white panel set on the purple background of the sign.

01a Approaching State owned, operated and maintained toll highways, in every instance, the ETC Account-Only auxiliary, cardinal direction, and arrow signs shall be sized to fit the size of the Route Marker sign.

**Option:**

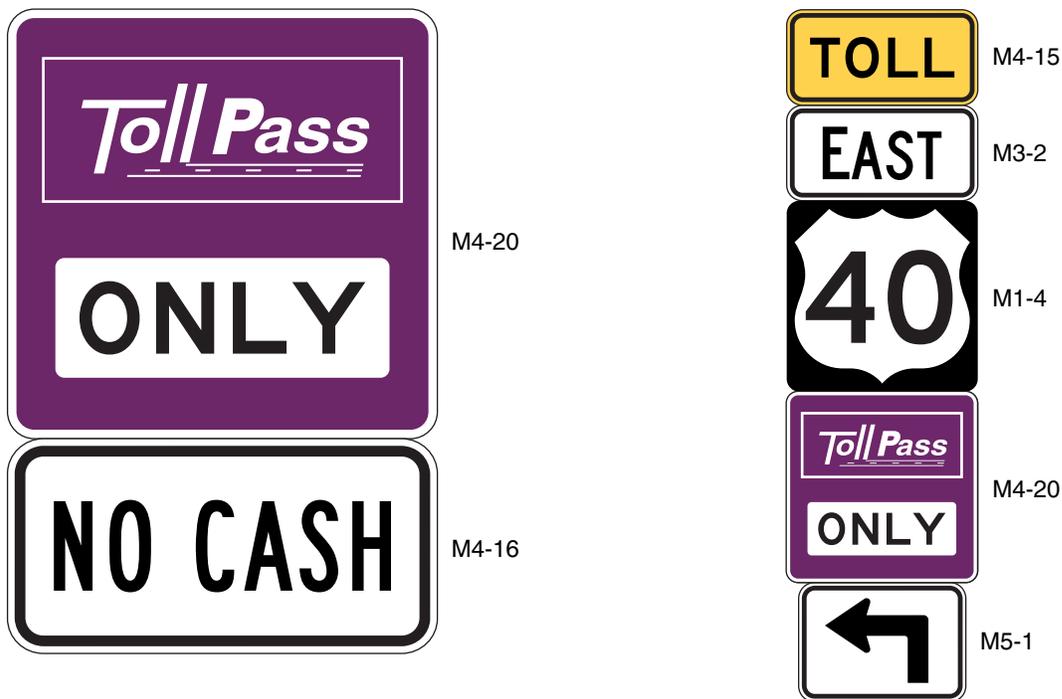
02 The NO CASH (M4-16) auxiliary sign (see Figure 2F-4) with a black legend and border on a white background may be used in a route sign assembly directly below the M4-20 auxiliary sign.

**Section 2F.13 Toll Highway and Toll Plaza Guide Signs – General**

**Standard:**

00a Along State owned, operated, and maintained roadways, ETL and toll plaza signing shall conform to the Maryland Transportation Authority Standards.

**Figure 2F-4. ETC Account-Only Auxiliary Signs for Use in Route Sign Assemblies**



NOTE: The ETC pictograph shown is an example only. The pictograph for the toll facility's adopted ETC system shall be used.

Example Route Sign Assembly

**Support:**

- 00b The standards regarding ETL and toll plaza signing can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.

**Support:**

- 01 Toll plazas are used on many toll highways, bridges, and tunnels for collection of tolls from road users. Electronic toll collection and/or open-road tolling might also be used on such facilities, either in addition to or in place of collecting toll payments at toll plazas.
- 02 Chapter 2G contains information regarding signs for preferential and managed lanes that are applicable to toll highways.
- 03 Chapter 3E contains information regarding pavement markings for certain toll plaza applications.

**Standard:**

- 04 **Directional assemblies for entrances to a toll highway or to a road leading directly to a toll highway with no opportunity to exit before paying or being charged a toll, shall clearly indicate that the facility is a toll highways. The TOLL (M4-15) auxiliary warning sign (see Section 2F.11) shall be used above the route sign of a numbered toll highways in any route sign assembly that provides directions to the toll route from another highway.**
- 05 **A rectangular panel with the black legend TOLL on a fluorescent yellow background shall be incorporated into the guide signs leading road users to a toll highway (see Figure 2F-5).**
- 06 **Guide signs for toll highways, toll plazas, and tolled or priced managed lanes (see Chapter 2G) shall have white legends and borders on green backgrounds, except as specifically provided by Sections 2F.13 through 2F.16.**

**Option:**

- 07 Where conditions do not permit separate signs, or where it is important to associate a particular regulatory or warning message with specific guidance information, regulatory and/or warning messages may be combined with guide signs for toll plazas using plaques, header panels, or rectangular regulatory or warning panels incorporated within the guide signs, as long as the proper legend and background colors are preserved.

**Standard:**

- 08 **When regulatory information is incorporated within a guide sign, they shall be displayed on a rectangular panel with black border and legend on a white background. When warning information is incorporated within a guide sign, they shall be displayed on a rectangular panel with black border and legend on a yellow fluorescent background.**

**Support:**

- 09 Figure 2F-5 shows examples of guide signs for entrances to various types of toll highways and for ETC account-only entrances to untolled highways.

**Standard:**

- 10 **Signing for entrances to toll highways where ETC is employed only through license plate character recognition such that road users are not required to establish a toll account or register their vehicle equipment shall comply with the provisions of Paragraphs 4 and 5 (see Figure 2F-6).**
- 11 **If only vehicles with registered ETC accounts are allowed to use a toll highway, the guide signs for entrances to such facilities shall incorporate the pictograph adopted by the toll facility's ETC payment system and the regulatory message ONLY (see Figures 2F-1, 2F-5, and 2F-6). The use, size, and placement of the ETC pictograph shall comply with the provisions of Sections 2F.03 and 2F.04.**
- 11a **Signing along toll highways that allow payment of tolls by a combination of registered ETC accounts and/or license plate character recognition accounts, shall comply with the provisions of Paragraphs 4 and 5 (see Figure 2F-6) and incorporate the ETC pictograph. The use, size, and placement of the ETC pictograph shall comply with the provisions of Sections 2F.03 and 2F.04 (see Figure 2F-5).**

**Option:**

- 11b A NO CASH (M4-16) auxiliary sign may be used directly below the ETC pictograph.

**Support:**

- 12 Sections 2F.11, 2F.12, and 2F.17 contain additional provisions regarding signs for toll highways that only accept ETC payments.
- 13 Sections 2G.16 through 2G.18 contain additional provisions regarding signs for priced managed lanes that only accept ETC payments.

## Option:

- 14 Where a toll highway on which tolls are collected only electronically also accepts payments from registered toll account users and those road users not registered in a toll account program are assessed a nominal surcharge in addition to the toll, or registered toll account users are assessed a discounted toll, such information may be displayed on a separate information sign near the entrance to such a facility (see Figure 2F-6).

## Support:

- 15 Figure 2F-7 shows an example of guide signs for alternative tolled and **untolled** ramp connections to a **untolled** highway.

- 16 Many different ETC payment systems are used by the various toll facility operators. Some of these systems accept payment from other systems' accounts.

## Option:

- 17 Where a facility will accept payments from other systems' accounts in addition to its primary ETC-account payment system, such information may be displayed on a separate information sign near the entrances to such a facility or in advance of a toll plaza or open-road tolling lanes, as space allows between primary signs.

## Guidance:

- 18 *Guide signs for toll plazas should be designed in accordance with the general principles of guide signs and the specific provisions of Chapter 2E.*

- 19 *Advance signs for toll plazas should systematically provide road users with advance and toll plaza lane-specific information regarding:*

- A. *The amount of the toll, the types of payment accepted, and the type(s) of registered ETC accounts accepted for payment;*
- B. *Which lane or lanes are required or allowed to be used for each available payment type; and*
- C. *Restrictions on the use of a toll plaza lane or lanes by certain types of vehicles (such as cars only or no trucks).*

## Standard:

- 20 **Signs for attended lanes at toll plazas shall include word messages such as FULL SERVICE, CASH, CHANGE, or RECEIPTS (see Figures 2F-8 through 2F-11).**

## Option:

- 21 **The Toll Taker (M4-17) symbol is not used in Maryland.**

## Standard:

- 22 **Signs for Exact Change lanes at toll plazas shall incorporate an appropriate word message, such as EXACT CHANGE and the amount of the toll for passenger vehicles (see Figures 2F-8 through 2F-11).**

## Option:

- 23 **The Exact Change (M4-18) symbol is not used in Maryland.**

## Standard:

- 24 **The Toll Taker (M4-17) symbol and the Exact Change (M4-18) symbol shall not be used in Maryland.**

- 25 **If only vehicles with registered ETC accounts are allowed to use a toll plaza lane, the signs for such lanes shall incorporate the pictograph adopted by the toll facility's ETC payment system and the regulatory message ONLY (see Figures 2F-1, 2F-8, 2F-9, and 2F-11). The use, size, and placement of the ETC pictograph shall comply with the provisions of Sections 2F.03 and 2F.04.**

## Option:

- 26 The ETC payment system's pictograph, without a purple underlay or purple header panel, may be used on signs for Exact Change or attended lanes at toll plazas to indicate that vehicles with registered ETC accounts may also use those lanes (see Figure 2F-9).

**Figure 2F-5. Examples of Guide Signs for Entrances to Toll Highways or Ramps**

**A - ENTRANCE TO A TOLL HIGHWAY ON WHICH  
REGISTRATION IN A TOLL ACCOUNT PROGRAM IS NOT REQUIRED**



**B - ENTRANCE TO AN ETC ACCOUNT-ONLY TOLL HIGHWAY  
OR ENTRANCE TO A TOLL HIGHWAY VIA AN ETC ACCOUNT-ONLY RAMP**



**C - ENTRANCE TO A NON-TOLL HIGHWAY VIA  
AN ETC ACCOUNT-ONLY TOLL ENTRANCE RAMP**



(the toll entrance is the only connection provided in the vicinity)

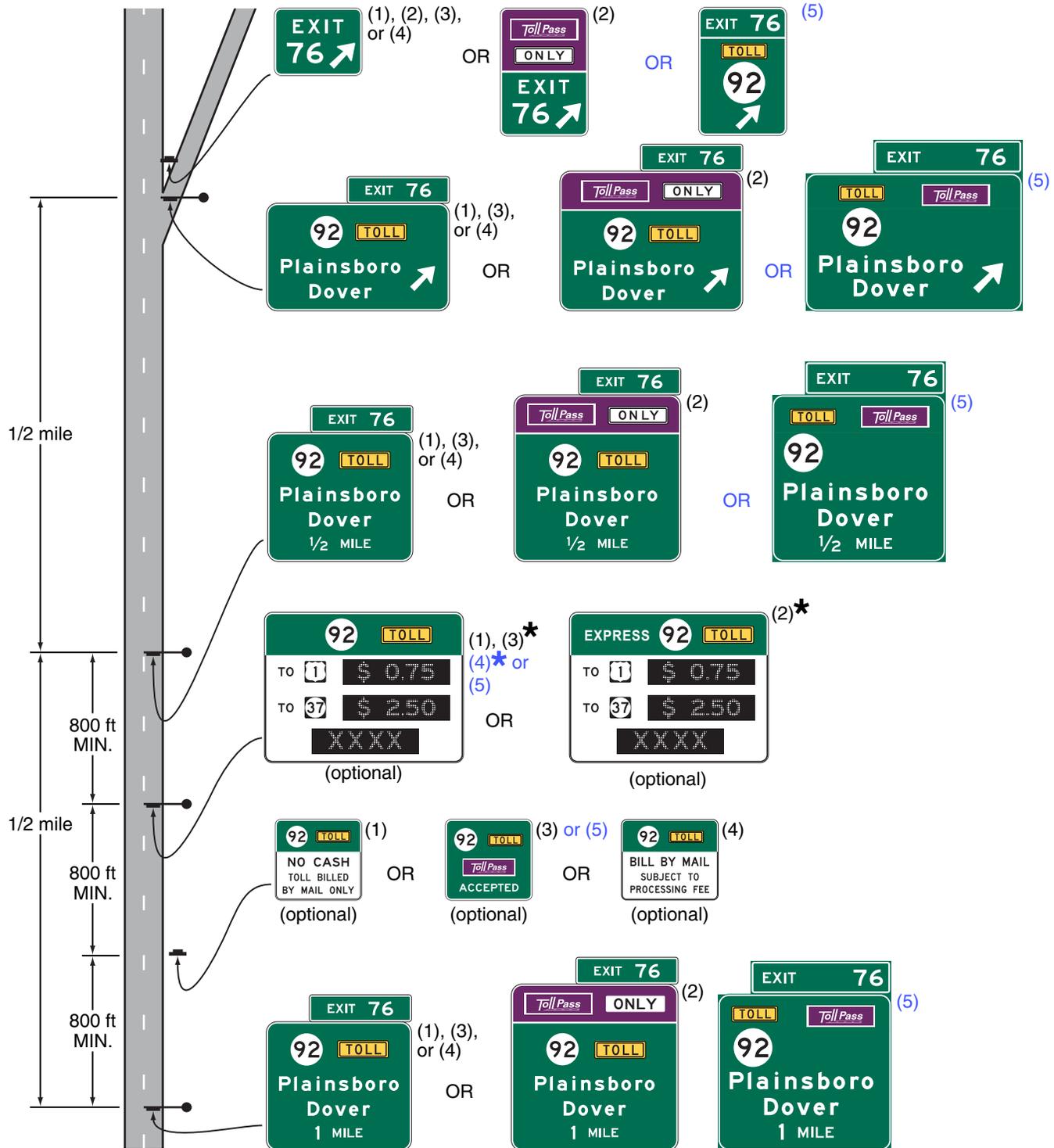


(an alternate non-toll entrance is provided in the vicinity)

**Note:**

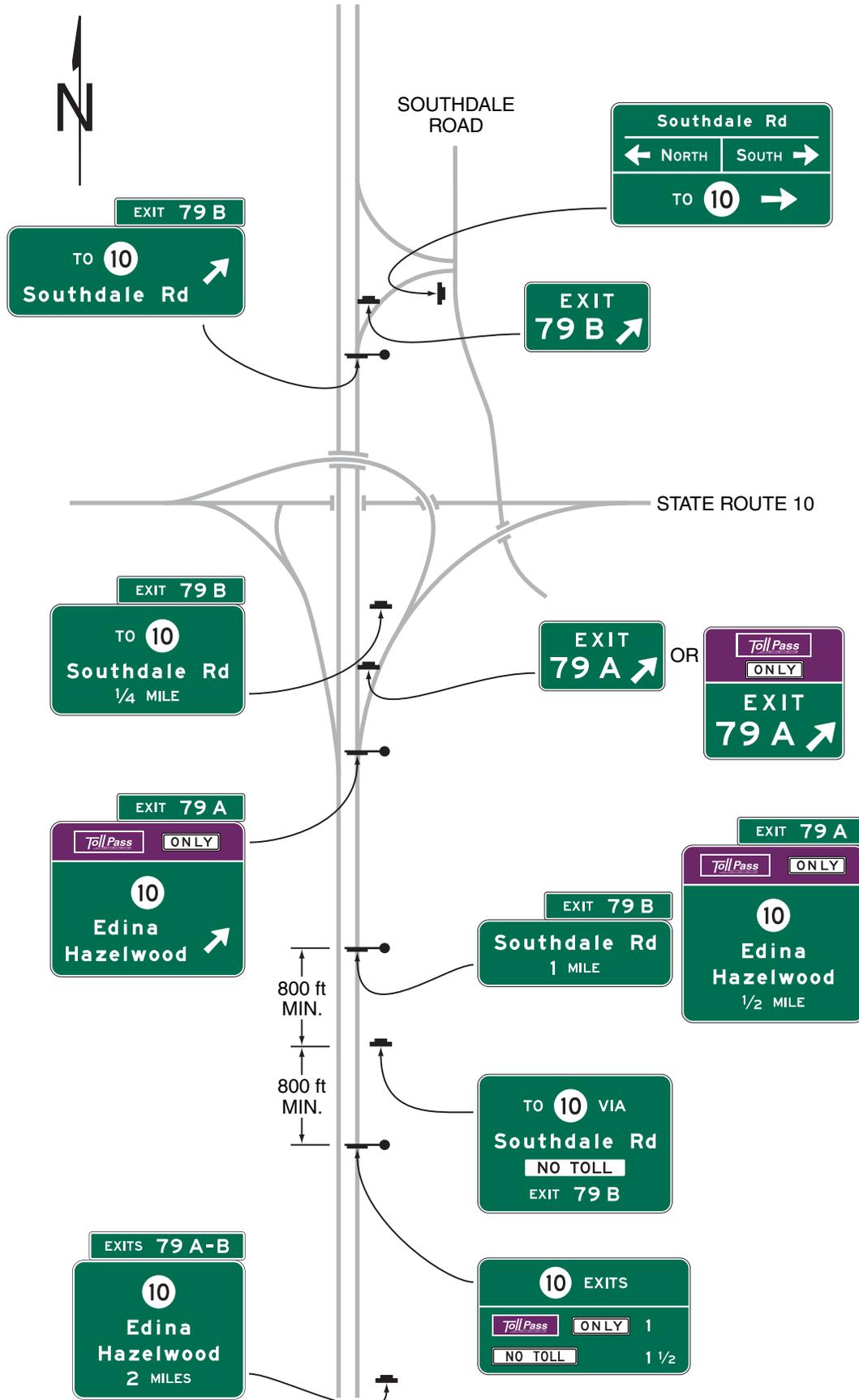
1. The ETC pictographs shown are examples only. The pictograph for the toll facility's adopted ETC system shall be used.
2. Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll roads can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.

**Figure 2F-6. Examples of Guide Signs for the Entrance to a Toll Highway on which Tolls are Collected Electronically Only**



- (1) All tolls are billed through license plate recognition only. A registered toll account or ETC device is not needed.
- (2) All tolls are billed through registered toll accounts only. All vehicles must be registered in an ETC account program.
- (3) Toll payments are also accepted from registered toll accounts. Registered toll accounts might receive a discount from the toll amount displayed on the signs.
- (4) Tolls are billed through license plate character recognition or registered toll accounts. Vehicles not registered in a toll account program are assessed the toll amount displayed on the signs.
- (5) Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll roads can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page 1.
- (6) Tolls are billed through a combination of registered ETC accounts and license plate character recognition accounts. License plate account vehicles are assessed an administrative fee in addition to the toll amount displayed on the signs.
- \* For managed toll highways only (see Chapter 2G)

**Figure 2F-7. Examples of Guide Signs for Alternative Toll and Non-Toll Ramp Connections to a Non-Toll Highway**



Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll roads can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.

**Figure 2F-8. Examples of Conventional Toll Plaza Advance Signs**



**Notes:**

1. The ETC pictograph that is shown is only an example. The pictograph for the toll facility's adopted ETC system shall be used.

**Figure 2F-9. Examples of Toll Plaza Canopy Signs**



- \* Optional flashing yellow beacons that are separated from any lane-use control signals for the lane (see Section 2F.16)
- \*\* The ETC pictographs that are shown are only examples. The pictograph for the toll facility's adopted ETC system shall be used.

**Section 2F.14 Advance Signs for Conventional Toll Plazas**

*Guidance:*

01 For conventional toll plazas (those without a divergence onto a separate alignment from mainline-aligned open-road tolling or ETC-Only lanes), one or more sets of overhead advance guide signs complying with the provisions of this Section should be provided. The advance guide signs for multi-lane toll plazas should provide information regarding which lanes to use for all of the toll payment methods accepted at the toll plaza. These signs should include toll plaza lane numbers (if used), or action messages or lane-use information such as LEFT LANE(S), CENTER LANE(S), RIGHT LANE(S), or down arrows over the approximate center of each applicable lane. These signs should also incorporate regulatory messages indicating any restrictions or prohibitions on the use of the lanes associated with the various types of payment methods by certain types of vehicles. For mainline toll plazas, these signs should be at least 1/2 mile in advance of the toll plaza, and farther if practical.

02 Additional guide signs with lane information for the toll payment types should be provided between approximately 1/4 mile and 800 feet in advance of the toll plaza at a location that avoids or minimizes obstruction of toll plaza canopy signs (see Section 2F.16) and lane-use control signals.

03 The number, mounting, and/or spacing of sets of advance signs for approaches to toll plazas on ramps, toll bridges, or tunnels, to accommodate a limited distance to the plaza from an intersection or from the start of the approach road to the bridge or tunnel, should be based on an engineering study or engineering judgment.

*Support:*

04 Figure 2F-10 shows examples of advance signs for a conventional toll plaza.

## **Section 2F.15 Advance Signs for Toll Plazas on Diverging Alignments from Open-Road ETC Account-Only Lanes**

Support:

01 Open-Road ETC lanes are sometimes located on the normal mainline alignment while the lanes for other toll payment methods are located at a toll plaza on a separate alignment (see Figure 2F-11). Since road users paying cash tolls must diverge from the mainline alignment, similar to a movement for an exit, it is important that the guide signs in advance of and at the point of divergence clearly indicate the required lane use and/or movements.

Guidance:

02 *For toll plazas located on a separate alignment that diverges from the mainline-aligned Open-Road ETC lanes where vehicles are required to have a registered ETC account or participate in a license plate character recognition ETC system, overhead advance signs should be provided at approximately 1 mile and 1/2 mile in advance of the divergence point. Both the 1-mile and 1/2-mile advance signs should include:*

- A. *The ETC (pictograph) Account-Only guide sign (see Figures 2F-8 and 2F-11) with a down arrow over the center of each lane that will become an Open-Road ETC lane or other arrow configuration as required by the roadway geometry (see Section 2E.21);*
- B. *For the lane or lanes which will diverge to a toll plaza, guide signs conforming to the provisions of Section 2F.13, indicating which lane or lanes will diverge to the toll plaza for the various cash toll payment methods; and*
- C. *Regulatory signs, plaques, or panels within the guide signs, indicating any restrictions or prohibitions of certain types of vehicles from toll plaza lanes associated with the various types of payment methods.*

03 *At or near the theoretical gore of the divergence point, an additional set of overhead guide signs should be provided and should include:*

- A. *The ETC (pictograph) Account-Only guide sign (see Figures 2F-8 and 2F-11) with a down arrow over the center of each Open-Road ETC lane or other arrow configuration as required by the roadway geometry (see Section 2E.21);*
- B. *Guide signs conforming to the provisions of Section 2F.13, with diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow(s) over the approximate center of each lane indicating the direction of the divergence, and providing lane information for all types of payment methods accepted at the toll plaza; and*
- C. *Regulatory signs, plaques, or panels within the guide signs, indicating any restrictions or prohibitions on the use of the toll plaza lanes associated with the various types of payment methods by certain types of vehicles.*

04 *Approximately 800 feet in advance of the toll plaza at a location that avoids or minimizes any obstruction of the toll plaza canopy signs (see Section 2F.16) and lane-use control signals, an additional set of overhead advance signs with lane information for the toll payment types should be provided.*

**Standard:**

05 **The use of down and directional arrows on the signs at the locations described in Paragraphs 2 through 4 shall comply with the provisions of Section 2D.08.**

Support:

06 Figure 2F-11 shows an example of advance signs for toll plazas on a diverging alignment from Open-Road ETC Account-Only Lanes.

07 Section 4K.02 contains information regarding the use of lane-use control signals for Open-Road ETC lanes for temporary lane closure purposes.

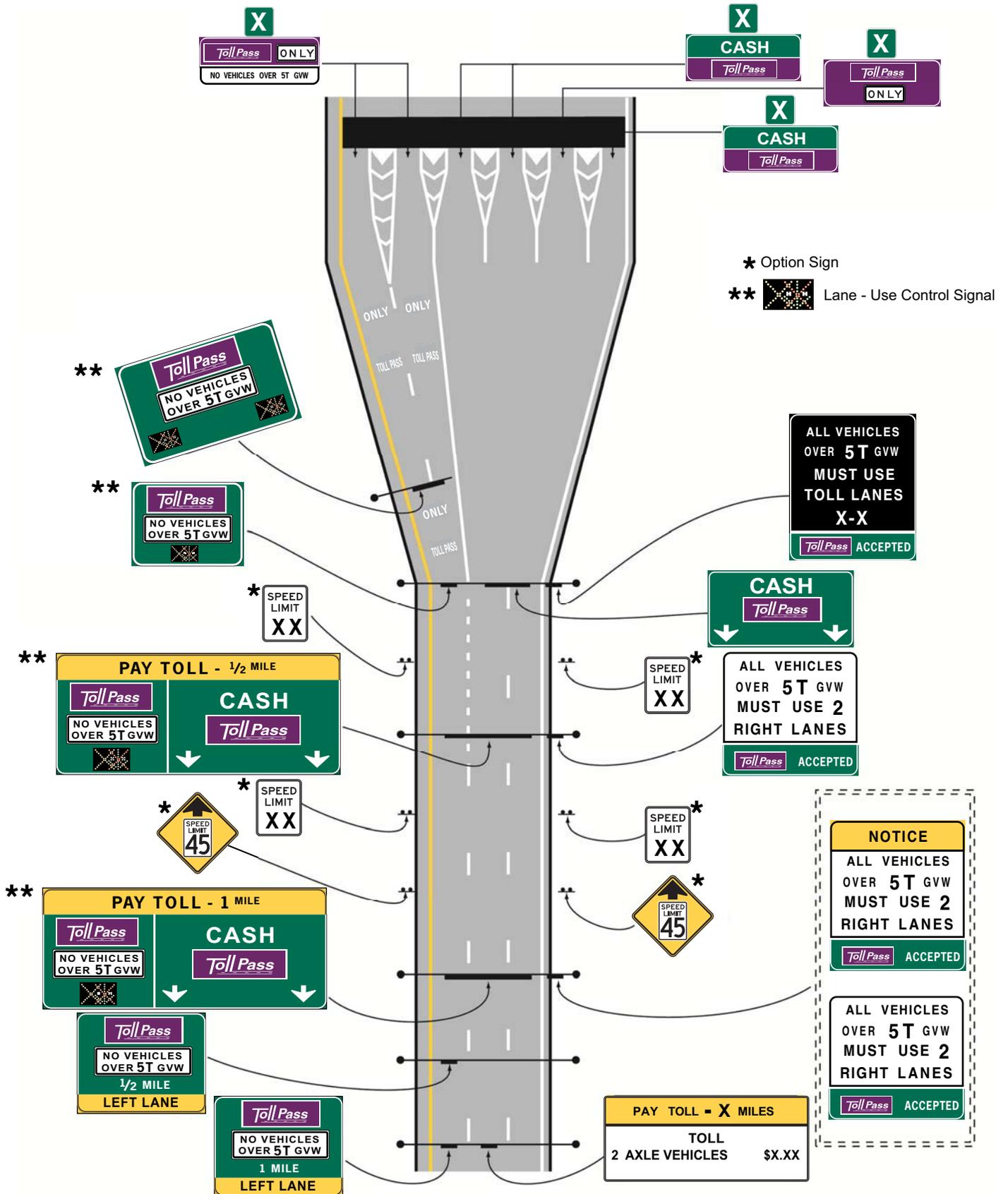
## **Section 2F.16 Toll Plaza Canopy Signs**

**Standard:**

01 **A sign complying with the provisions of Section 2F.13 shall be provided above the center of each lane that is not an Open-Road ETC lane, mounted on or suspended from the toll plaza canopy, or on a separate structure immediately in advance of the plaza located such that each sign is clearly related to an individual toll lane, indicating the payment type(s) accepted in the lane and any restrictions or prohibitions of certain types of vehicles that apply to the lane. Except for toll-ticket systems, the toll for passenger or 2-axle vehicles shall be provided on a separate sign, upstream of the toll plaza (see Section 2F.05).**

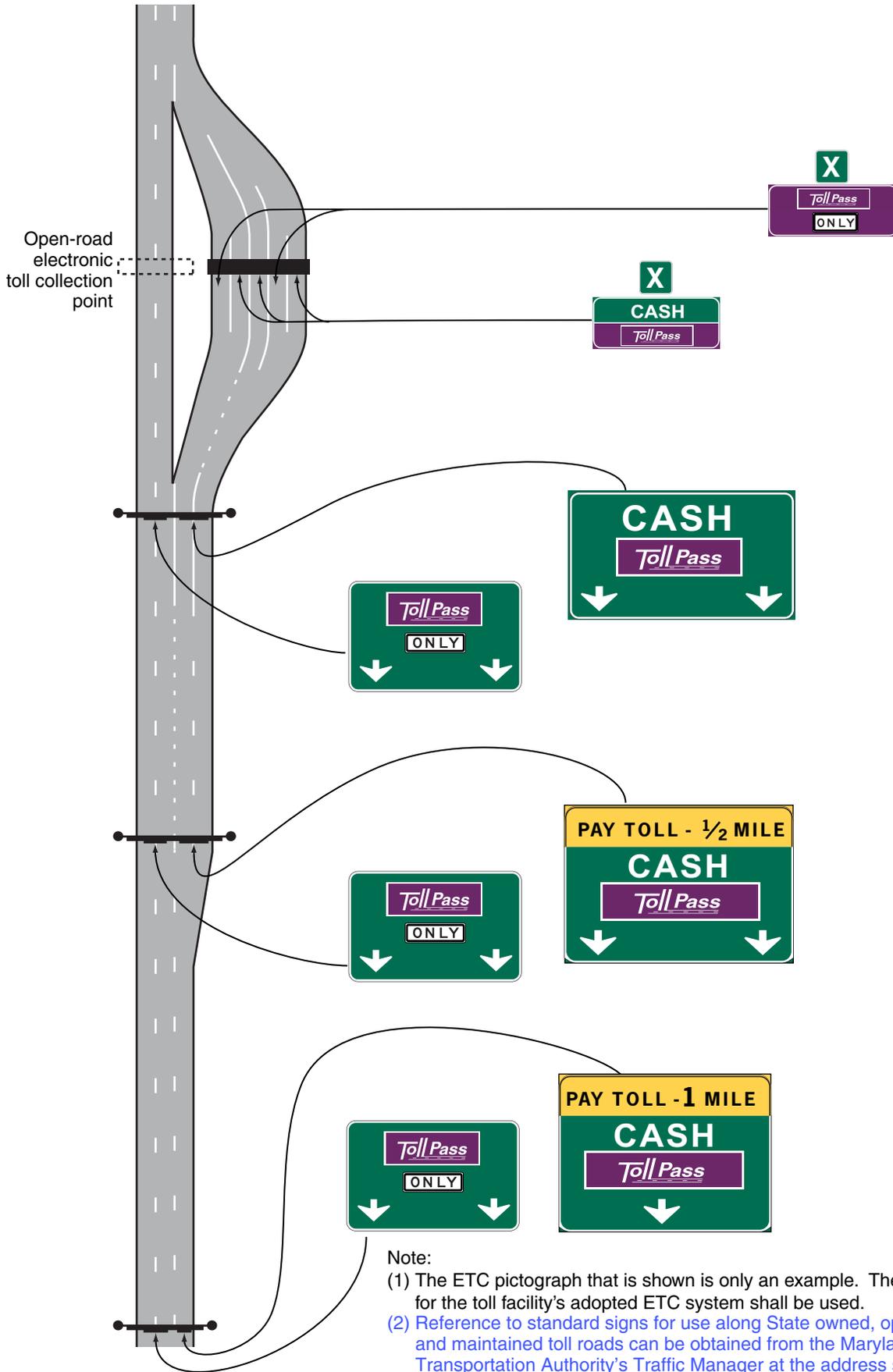


**Figure 2F-10. Examples of Mainline Toll Plaza Approach and Canopy Signing (2 of 3)**  
**OPTION B-2: ETC DEDICATED LANE - CONCURRENT FLOW (I.E. LANE DROP)**





**Figure 2F-11. Examples of Guide Signs for a Mainline Toll Plaza on a Diverging Alignment from Open-Road ETC Lanes**



**Note:**

- (1) The ETC pictograph that is shown is only an example. The pictograph for the toll facility's adopted ETC system shall be used.
- (2) Reference to standard signs for use along State owned, operated, and maintained toll roads can be obtained from the Maryland Transportation Authority's Traffic Manager at the address shown on Page i.

02 **The background color of a canopy sign for an ETC Account-Only toll plaza lane shall be purple (see Sign M4-20(4) in Figure 2F-9).**

Option:

03 Where vehicles are required to have a registered ETC account to use the lane, one or two flashing yellow beacons (see Section 4K.04) may supplement a canopy sign over an ETC Account-Only lane to call special attention to the location of the ETC Account-Only lane within the plaza.

04 The canopy sign for an ETC-Only toll plaza lane in which a regulatory speed limit is not posted and in which vehicles are not required to stop may display an advisory speed within a horizontal rectangular panel with a black legend and yellow background within the bottom portion of the canopy sign.

**Standard:**

05 **Flashing beacons supplementing a canopy sign over an ETC Account-Only lane shall be mounted directly above or alongside the sign in a manner that is separated from any lane-use control signals for that lane (see Figure 2F-9).**

06 **For multi-lane toll plazas, lane-use control signals (see Section 4K.02) shall be provided above the center of each toll plaza lane that is not an Open-Road ETC lane to indicate the open or closed status of each lane. Lane-use control signals shall not be used to call attention to a lane for a specific toll payment type such as ETC Account-Only lanes.**

06a **For multi-lane toll plazas, a Toll Lane Number sign (MDTA 03.01) shall be mounted above each toll plaza lane that is not an Open-Road ETC lane. (See Figure 2F-9).**

06b **For toll plaza lanes where ETC Accounts and cash payments are accepted, a CASH and ETC Account sign (M4-17(1)) shall be mounted above the center of the toll plaza lane. (See Figure 2F-9).**

Support:

07 Part 6 contains information regarding the closing of a lane for temporary traffic control purposes.

08 Figure 2F-9 shows examples of toll plaza canopy signs.

### **Section 2F.17 Guide Signs for Entrances to ETC Account-Only Facilities**

Support:

01 Some toll highways, bridges, and tunnels are restricted to use only by vehicles with a specific registered ETC account.

**Standard:**

02 **Where vehicles are required to have a registered ETC account to use an ETC Account-Only facility, guide signs for the facility shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 2E and specifically with the applicable provisions of Section 2F.13.**

03 **Guide signs for the entrance ramps to such ETC Account-Only facilities shall incorporate the pictograph of the toll facility's ETC payment system and the word ONLY in a header panel or plaque designed in accordance with the provisions of Section 2F.13 (see Figure 2F-5).**

Support:

04 Section 2F.12 contains information regarding ETC-Only auxiliary signs for use with route signs in route sign assemblies.

### **Section 2F.18 ETC Program Information Signs**

**Standard:**

01 **Except as provided in Paragraph 2, signs that inform road users of telephone numbers, Internet addresses, including domain names and uniform resource locators (URLs), or e-mail addresses for enrolling in an ETC program of a toll facility or managed lane, obtaining an ETC transponder, and/or obtaining ETC program information shall only be installed in rest areas, parking areas, or similar roadside facilities where the signs are viewed only by pedestrians or occupants of parked vehicles.**

Option:

02 ETC program information signs displaying telephone numbers that have no more than four characters may be installed on roadways in locations where they will not obscure the road user's view of higher priority traffic control devices and that are removed from key decision points where the road user's view is more appropriately focused on other traffic control devices, roadway geometry, or traffic conditions, including exit and entrance ramps, intersections, toll plazas, temporary traffic control zones, and areas of limited sight distance.