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Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Programme of Work: non-convention signs

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This document contains ideas for new signs or symbols for addition to the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

IDEAS FOR NEW SIGNS OR SYMBOLS

for Addition to the Convention on Road Signs and Signals

A Survey of Members of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

September-October 2021

Due to the age of *Informal document #2* and the rapidity with which the world of road signs, technology, and regulations are constantly changing, the time appeared fitting to check on the most recent thinking of GERSS members concerning sign additions to the Convention.

The results of this survey are consolidated in three tables according to these categories:

- A = Warning signs
- C = Prohibition Signs
- D = Mandatory Signs
- E = Special Regulation Signs
- F = Facilities/Services Signs
- G = Direction/Position/Indication Signs
- H = Additional Panels
- VMS = Variable Message Signs

A separate section is added for some signs most closely associated with environmentalism.

A special effort is made to acknowledge the needs of LMICs.

The order of the signs in the tables follows their order in a complementary presentation that provides more information about each sign with one or more examples of the sign's usage in different countries. The focus is on determining whether the sign or its symbol is currently used in a harmonized way.

Concepts suggested by one or two members have all white rows.

Concepts suggested by three or more members are shaded in **GREEN**.

TABLE 1: Main category is A or C

SYMBOLS/SIGNS	CATEGORIES	COMMENTS
Winding road	A	For LMICs
Waterway beside road	A	For LMICs & others
Flatbed trucks stuck on bridge/rails	A, H	
Ruts	A	
Sand	A	For LMICs
Soft road	A	For LMICs
Emergency management	A, C, G	For LMICs & others (partly temporary)
Buses	A, C, D, H	Add E symbol to more sign sections
Trolleybuses	A, E, H	
Slow vehicles	A, H	Add C symbol to more sections or create new symbol
PMVs	A, C, E, H	1 member: 1 symbol for all light electric vehicles, cycles included
Electric scooters, segways, monowheels	A, C, E, H	
Ferry	A, E, H	For LMICs / Not ocean liner symbol, or 2 symbols
Car/truck ferry	E, H	Better image needed
Pedestrian/bicycle crossing 1 lane	A, E	Some oppose including lane lines; some believe using 2 signs (A12, A14) is preferable
Pedestrian/bicycle crossing 2 lanes	A, E	
Passenger bicycles	A, C, D, E, H	For LMICs
Elderly persons crossing	A, H	Some members: A sign; other members: only H panel 1 member: sign is unneeded
Pedestrians along the road (& crossing)	A	In R.E.2 as VMS
Herders	A, C	For LMICs
Horse riders	A, E, F, G, H	Add D symbol to more sign sections
Example of small wild animal	A, H	
Chevrons	A	
Hazard markers, permanent	A	
Hazard markers, temporary	A	1 member: temporary signs less important
Hazard marker for divided road	A	With deceleration lane (in Sweden)
End of road work	A, Temporary	
Commercial bicycles	C, E, H	2 symbols -- 1 for LMICs / 1 for Europe
Vendors	C, F	For LMICs
Electric or hybrid bicycles	C, F, H	1 member: include PMVs (same person as above) 1 member: sign is unneeded
Passenger motorcycles	C	For LMICs
Tricycle taxis	C, D, E, H	For LMICs
Learner drivers	C	
Passenger cars	C, D, E, F, H	
Minibuses	C, D, H	For LMICs
Caravans, motorized	C, E, H	Campervans
Tour buses	C, D, E, F, G, H	
Trucks with tow	C, H	
No traffic for 4 road users	C	On one sign
No overtaking by motorcycles	C	
Lanes closed, police/military checkpoint	C	For LMICs May belong in different category

TABLE 2: Main category is D, E, F, G, or H

SYMBOLS/SIGNS	CATEGORIES	COMMENTS
Turn on low beams	D	
Electric or hybrid cars	D, E, H	
HOV	D, E, H, VMS	1 member: +2 HOV
HOV lane shared with bus	D (E)	
Tram & taxi lane	D (E)	National legislation varies: mandatory, advised, only peak hours, only route buses
Bus & taxi lane	D (E)	
Park + HOV	E	
Parking fee during certain times	E, H	Not harmonized; many misunderstandings occur
Parking fee time limit	E, H	
Parking with CCTV	E	Also on signs ahead of or at low emission zone entrances
Toll road	E	2 members: several signs, including electronic payment
Train station	E	
Goods/truck terminal	E	
Bus station	E	
School bus stop	E	
School street	E	
Pedestrian zone	E	National legislation varies: some allow cycles &/or other vehicles
Pedestrian street	E	
Cycle street (& street end)	E	
Residential area with added speed limit	E	
Automatic traffic control	E	Cameras, radar for speed & red signal enforcement
Speed surveillance by aircraft	E	Helicopters & drones
Low emission zone	E	In Environment section
Electric vehicle charging	F	
School crossing guards	F	
Shopping mall	F	
Ring road	G	
Equal lanes merging with zip rule	G	
City center	G	
Workdays	H	
Loading/unloading deliveries	H	
Snowplows	H	
Deaf persons	H	
Low emission vehicle	H	In Environment section

TABLE 3: Signs not in the Convention plus one issue

SYMBOLS/SIGNS	CATEGORIES	COMMENTS
Pedestrian crossing	E	Conspicuity problem; how to improve it?
Drinking & driving	C, Reminder	VC does not provide for reminder signs
Texting while driving	C, Reminder	
Crash has occurred	VMS	In R.E.2
Wrong-way drivers	VMS only	1 member; sign does not belong in VC
Vehicle breakdown	VMS	
Obstacles/objects on road	VMS only	
Pedestrians on road	VMS	In R.E.2
Uniform speed limit	VMS only	When traffic congestion detected ahead

Members' comments that are not included in the Tables:

- Skaters are becoming a problem.
- Electric scooters are a growing nuisance.
- Electric scooters are a menace and are involved in crashes.
- Section G signs are less important than signs in other sections.
- Self-driving vehicles should have their own lanes.
- Self-driving vehicles should not have separate lanes.

There are four types of disagreement among the members:

- 1a) Sign category -- What kind of sign is needed?**
e.g., should be a warning sign, should only be an additional panel
- 1b) Sign category -- This sign pertains to which VC section?**
e.g., one member views the sign as an E, another views the same sign as a G
- 2) Conservative vs. liberal approach**
e.g., add few signs vs. add many signs
- 3) Generic vs. specific symbols**
e.g., one symbol for all light electric vehicles vs. symbols for each of them
- 4) Sign needed, not needed**
e.g., for seven signs proposed by members, other members oppose addition

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