

## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ALL Counties

### MINUTE ORDER

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ALL District

Minute Order 89979 dated February 27, 1990, and attached hereto as exhibit A, established the process to comply with the Federal mandate and Administrative Directive, to keep accurate records on the Designated Highway System and identified the resources to be implemented by the department.

The provisions of Minute Order 89979 have been implemented by the Texas Department of Transportation (department). The department implemented the Highway Reference Marker Location System, which uses the posted guide sign and a statewide reference marker to identify each highway. There are highways designated on one official highway system throughout Texas with erected guide markers, as numbered routes and there are designated State Highway Loops and State Highway Spurs that have been identified, with erected guide markers, as Business Routes of the through highway that bypassed that city or town. These Business Routes are perceived as a legitimate system of highways by the local business community and provide a valuable service to the traveling public by indicating where they may leave their travel route for supplies and return to continue their journey, as well as benefit the economy of the city or town involved. Minute Order 89979 additionally created a subdivision of the State Highway System and classified Business Routes separate from and being equal to State Highway Loop and State Highway Spur, and further ordered: (1) these Business Routes be designated based on the through highway it is connected to; (2) this designation shall include the number of the through highway and a letter suffix to identify all the separate locations along a common through highway; (3) the suffix sequence A to Z will follow the direction of the Reference Marker System from low to high numbers; and (4) these Business Routes be marked using current signing practices until a uniform Statewide Standard can be established.

The Transportation Planning and Programming Division recommends rescinding the requirement for a Business Route to include a letter suffix A to Z in Minute Order 89979 due to its inherent limiting nature such that the Business Route designations will continue being designated based on the through highway it is connected to, and this designation shall include the number of the through highway and be marked based on statewide standard signing guidance. This will allow ongoing expansion of our transportation network and increase the number of business routes that are currently limited by the letter suffix requirement.

Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code, §§201.103 and 221.001 the executive director of the department recommends rescinding the requirement for a Business Route to include a letter suffix A to Z in Minute Order 89979. The rescission will allow the department to update the highway designation files to ensure accuracy, consistency, and efficiencies with management of the current roadway inventory data and prevent confusion as to the appropriate designation of certain roadways.

**TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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The Texas Transportation Commission (commission) finds that this action is necessary for the proper development and operation of the state highway system.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the requirement in Minute Order 89979 for a Business Route to include a letter suffix A to Z is hereby rescinded.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the department may continue the current highway designation process, including the designation of Business Routes, but will exclude the requirement for a suffix sequence A to Z effective for Business Route designations effective after the date of this minute order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the current Business Route designation made prior to the date of this minute order will remain in effect inclusive of the A-Z suffixes unless the roadway designation is amended by a future minute order.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Recommended by:

DocuSigned by:

*Humberto Gonzalez Jr, P.E.*

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Director, Transportation Planning and  
Programming Division

DocuSigned by:

*Mark Williams*

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Executive Director

116873 January 30, 2025

Minute Number	Date Passed
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STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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WHEREAS, the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation is required, by Federal mandate and Administrative Directive, to keep accurate records on the Designated Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Reference Marker Location System, currently being implemented by the Department, uses the posted guide sign and a statewide reference marker to identify each highway in the records, which dictates that the posted sign indicate the designated highway route only; and

WHEREAS, at various locations throughout the State of Texas, there are highways designated on one official highway system that have been identified, with erected guide markers, as numbered routes on another official highway system; and

WHEREAS, in various cities and towns in the State of Texas, there are designated State Highway Loops and State Highway Spurs that have been identified, with erected guide markers, as Business Routes of the through highway that bypassed that city or town; and

WHEREAS, these Business Routes, even though they may have been signed as such for a number of years, are not an officially designated highway system and cannot be recorded as such; and

WHEREAS, these signed Business Routes are perceived as a legitimate system of highways by the local business community; and

WHEREAS, these Business Routes do in fact constitute a desirable highway system and provide a valuable service to the traveling public, by notifying them where they may leave their travel route for supplies and return to continue their journey, as well as benefit the economy of the city or town involved;

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that a subdivision of the State Highway System be created, classified as Business Route, separate from, but equal to, State Highway Loop and State Highway Spur; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these Business Routes be designated in one of the following categories:

- \* Off Interstate Highway
- \* Off United States Highway
- \* Off State Highway
- \* Off Farm or Ranch to Market Road,

Based on the through highway it is connected to, and that this designation shall include the number of the through highway and a letter suffix to identify all the separate locations along a common through highway; and the suffix sequence A to Z will follow the direction of the Reference Marker System from low to high numbers; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these Business Routes be marked using current signing practices until uniform Statewide Standards can be established, however, current signs and future standards should contain three elements:

- \* The Word Business
- \* The Number and Shield Shape of the Through Route, and
- \* The Letter Suffix

And shall not contain the Highway System identification of the through route such as IH, US, SH, FM, or RM; and

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Engineer-Director proceed in the most feasible manner to implement the policy that all highways be signed with erected guide markers that indicate their officially Designated Highway System and Number only; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Engineer-Director examine each case where current guide markers do not reflect the actual Designated Highway System and Number, and determine whether the highway should be resigned to match its current designation or be submitted to this Commission for redesignation to the Highway System indicated on its existing signs; and that this determination shall be made after consultation with local officials through the District Offices involved, and shall reflect the best interest of the Department and the Public; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all changes in signing and designation be accomplished in one hundred twenty (120) days or less, to allow for the assignment and erection of necessary reference markers before established deadlines.

Submitted by

Examined and recommended by:

Clem R. Rueschke  
(Title) State Transportation  
Planning Engineer

Approved

Marcus L. Yancey Jr.  
Deputy Director

[Signature]  
Engineer-Director

Minute Number 89979

Date Passed FEB 27 90

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