IDAHO MANAGEMENT OF BRIDGE LOW CLEARANCE SIGNS

(Intended Audience: ITD Operations Staff)

1. **Measurement:** ITD Maintenance measures bridge in accordance with ITD Operations Manual within 30 days from completion of any construction/maintenance project that may change or alter the vertical clearance. Bridges with measured clearance less than 16 feet must be posted. Note: ITD Maintenance is responsible for measuring the bridge clearance when local roads and machine passes cross under state highway bridges. ITD Bridge Section will also verify bridge clearance during routine bridge inspections.
2. **Notification:** If a low clearance bridge is identified, ITD Maintenance reports the measured clearance to the DMV and sends ITD Bridge the Vertical Clearance Permitting form and Low Clearance Signing Plan form.
3. **Response:** ITD Bridge returns letter with the bridge posting requirement. District operation staff will need to complete the sign maintenance request form and send to the sign shop.
4. **Signs Provided:** ITD Sign Shop will directly ship to ITD Maintenance the required signs for low clearance and advance warning as indicated on the sign layout form.
5. **Placement of Signs:** ITD Maintenance will be required to place the signs in accordance with the Idaho MUTCD within 30 days of receiving the ITD Bridge low clearance letter.
6. **Record and Report:** Bridge owner requested to send photo of the in-place signs and respond back to ITD Bridge in an email to let ITD Bridge know work has been completed.
7. **Maintenance:** The signs become the responsibility of the District to maintain.

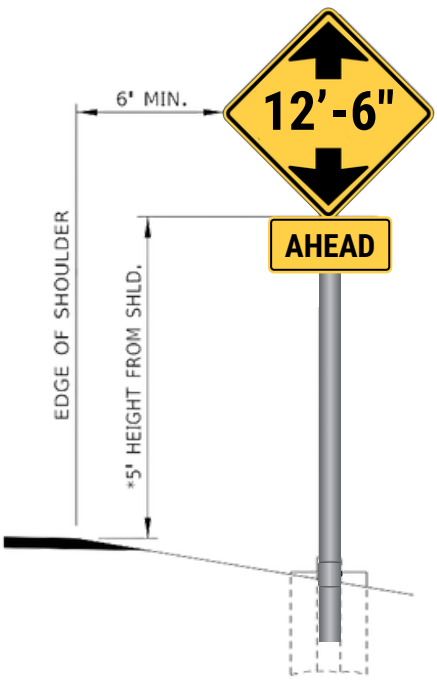
ITD Maintenance must install signs in compliance with of the Idaho MUTCD. Advance warning low clearance signs are a new requirement of the 11th edition of the MUTCD adopted by Idaho on July 1st 2025 and has a compliance date of January 18, 2029. Idaho uses one of two standard sign configurations to display low clearance restrictions on bridges (on page 2). Refer to the Low Clearance Letter to determine which configuration applies to your bridge.

RESOURCES

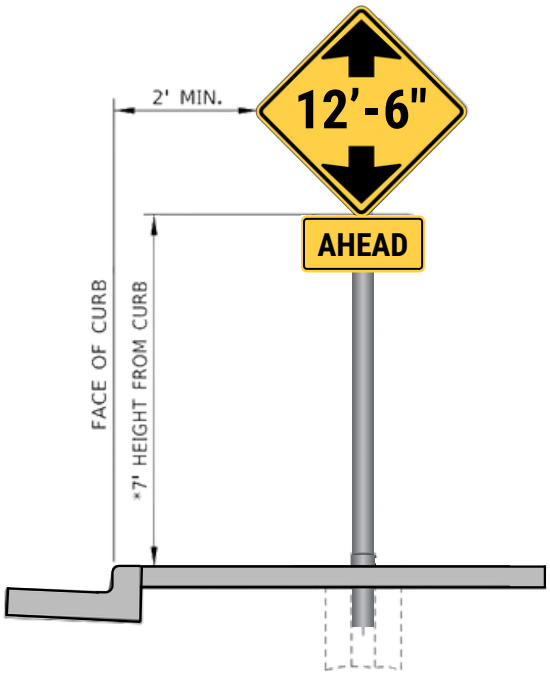
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 11th Edition Idaho Adoption



RURAL SIGN PLACEMENT



URBAN SIGN PLACEMENT



Note: Use urban sign placement when sign is installed in the vicinity of a curb or in a business, commercial, or residential area where parking or pedestrian movements are likely. If installed lower than 7 feet, ensure signs do not project more than 4 inches into the pedestrian facility.

Note: advance sign shown as an example for sign placement. See page 3 for other sign configurations.

(Rev. 7-26)

IDAHO MANAGEMENT OF BRIDGE LOW CLEARANCE SIGNS

(Intended Audience: ITD Operations Staff)

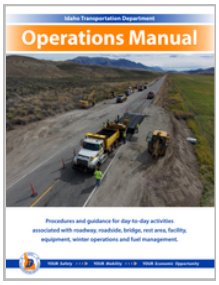
ITD OPERATIONS MANUAL

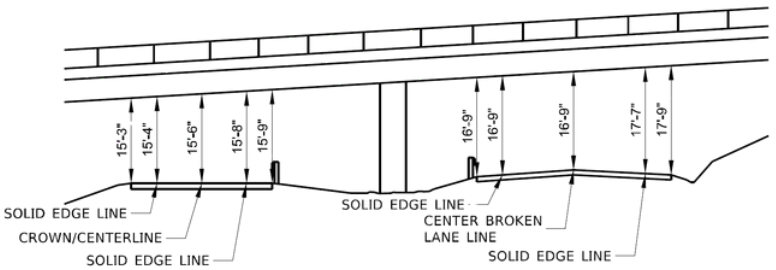
Current design standards for vertical clearances on Idaho routes call for 17 feet minimum. Any clearance less than 16 feet must be posted (See ITD Operations Manual for Guidance). In accordance with the DMV, the statutory maximum allowable height including load is 14'. Over height loads require a permit.

Vertical clearances shall be re-measured immediately after completion of construction/maintenance projects that may change or alter the vertical clearance. See ITD Bridge Vertical Clearance Permitting flyer.

For all structures, measure the vertical clearance from each left yellow edge line, center broken white and yellow lines, right solid white line, and any other solid lines in both directions.

These vertical clearance measurements are necessary to report to the DMV for overheight permitting and to verify with Bridge the correct posting is in place. These values must be reported by ITD Operations staff on the Vertical Clearance Permitting form.





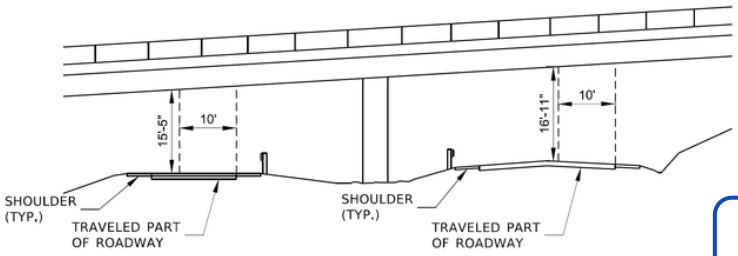
SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY (SNBI) *(Use to Determine Low Clearance Signing)*

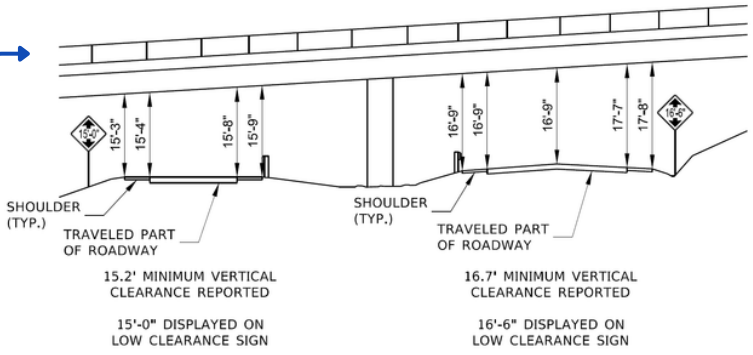
During routine bridge inspections (typically every two to four years), measurements are taken and reported for maximum usable vertical clearance and minimum vertical clearance. These measurements are reported on the bridge inspection report by ITD inspectors. These values should not be used to determine vertical clearance height.



HIGHWAY MAXIMUM USEABLE VERTICAL CLEARANCE (B.H.12)

Maximum Usable Vertical Clearance: Report the minimum vertical clearance for the highway feature reported in, measured over the 10-foot-wide envelope of the traveled part of the highway, that provides for the maximum usable clearance envelope. Measure the vertical clearance plumb from the deck or highway surface to the lowest bridge member appurtenance (signs, utilities, etc.) attached to the bridge, or other structure.



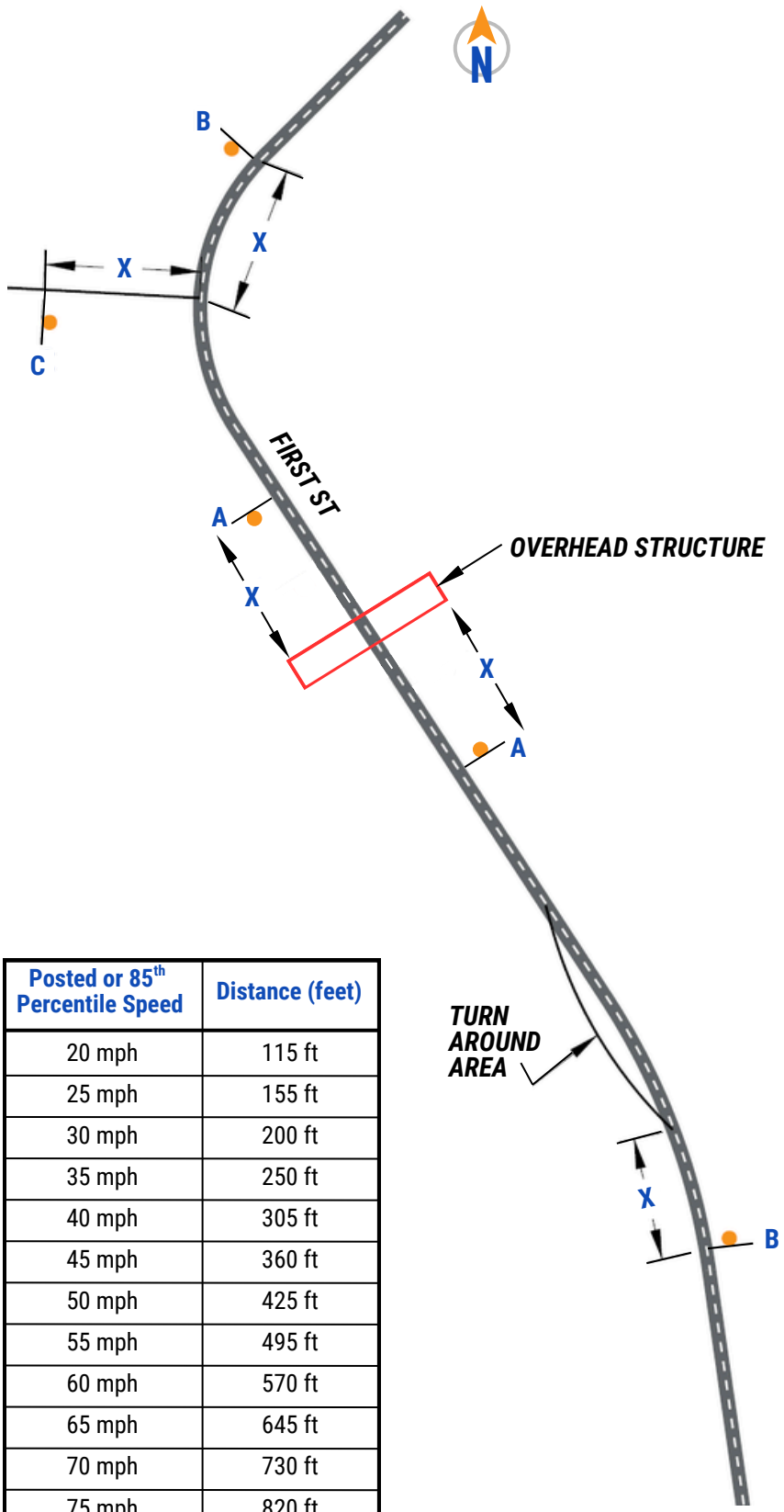


HIGHWAY MINIMUM VERTICAL CLEARANCE (B.H.13)

Highway Minimum Vertical Clearance: Report the minimum vertical clearance measured over the highway feature reported, rounded down to the nearest tenth of a foot. Measure the vertical clearance plumb from the deck or highway surface(including paved or stabilized shoulders) to the lowest bridge member restriction, appurtenance (signs, utilities, etc.) attached to the bridge, or other structure. If low clearance signing is required, the minimum vertical clearance minus 3 inches will be displayed on the sign. If bridge clearance posting is determined to be required, vertical clearance information shall be provided on a picture with the locations measured and the clearance displayed along with the Route, milepost, and location or cross road of the vertical clearance restriction. If posting is required, fill out the Low Clearance Sign form.

(Rev. 7-26)

EXAMPLE LOW CLEARANCE SIGNING PLAN



Posted or 85th Percentile Speed	Distance (feet)
20 mph	115 ft
25 mph	155 ft
30 mph	200 ft
35 mph	250 ft
40 mph	305 ft
45 mph	360 ft
50 mph	425 ft
55 mph	495 ft
60 mph	570 ft
65 mph	645 ft
70 mph	730 ft
75 mph	820 ft
80 mph	910 ft
85 mph	1,010 ft

SIGN ASSEMBLY A: LOW CLEARANCE SIGN AT STRUCTURE

Mount on 1 - D-3 post



W12-2

SIGN ASSEMBLY B: ADVANCE WARNING ON LOW CLEARANCE STRUCTURE ROUTE

Mount on 1 - D-3 post



W12-2



W16-9P

SIGN ASSEMBLY C: ADVANCE WARNING ON SIDE ROAD APPROACHING LOW CLEARANCE ROUTE

Mount on 1 - D-3 post



W12-2



OVERHEAD SIGN ON STRUCTURE



W12-2a

See ITD Traffic Manual & Standard Drawings 616-7 & 616-10 for using alternate post sizes and types, or when installing signs on an interstate.

(Rev. 7-26)