

# W20-5b

## Left Lane Closed Ahead

**CATEGORY**

Warning Signs

**SHAPE**

Diamond

**COLOR**

Orange background, black legend

**TYPICAL CA MINIMUM SIZE**

48" x 48" on conventional roads; 60" x 60" on expressways and freeways

**COMMON TCP PLACEMENT**

Advance warning area, ahead of the work

**CA MUTCD REFERENCE**

CA MUTCD Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control), Chapter 6F; warning-sign design in Part 2C

### FIELD USE NOTES

Warns specifically that the left-hand travel lane is closed ahead so traffic in that lane can merge right in advance of the closure. In the field, W20-5b Left Lane Closed Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include left-lane closures on multilane streets and highways; placed ahead of the merging taper; paired with arrow boards and channelizing devices. Always confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, spacing, and placement against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

**Official MUTCD reference:** [https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs\\_2024.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs_2024.htm)