



## PA TURNPIKE COMMISSION POLICY

*This is a statement of official Pennsylvania Turnpike Policy*

**NUMBER:** 5.06

**APPROVAL DATE:** 11-20-2001

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12-05-2001

**REVISED DATE:** 10-30-2001

**POLICY SUBJECT:**

U-Turn on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:**

Traffic Engineering and Operations

**A. PURPOSE:**

This policy letter governs the making of a U-Turn on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

**B. SCOPE:**

This policy applies to the making of U-Turns on the system and at all Interchanges/Toll Plazas.

**C. GENERAL POLICY:**

The making of a U-Turn on the Pennsylvania Turnpike is prohibited except for authorized and emergency vehicles, which may make the U-Turn at a designated area.

**D. DEFINITIONS:**

Authorized Personnel: Any Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Employee.

Authorized Vehicle: Pa. Code Title 67, Section 601.17 - Authorized Vehicles.

Designated Area: Median/Wide Area, Service Plaza, Maintenance Shed, Access Gates, Toll Plazas, and Interchanges.

Emergency: An unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.

Emergency Authorization: Should the request be emergency in nature, any Authorized Personnel may authorize the U-Turn and then notify the Interchange Manager with the reason for authorizing the U-Turn. Interchange/Toll Plaza personnel shall assist the driver in making the U-Turn in a safe manner.

Non-Emergency Authorization: If a U-Turn situation/request occurs at an Interchange/Toll Plaza, the Toll Collector will notify the Interchange Manager on duty. If no Interchange Manager is on duty at the

System U-turns: The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) or authorized Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) personnel may authorize the making of a U-Turn to the drivers of non-authorized vehicles only

when necessary to comply with Commission rules and regulations or in an emergency. A driver of a non-authorized motor vehicle may reverse direction of travel only by passing through an Interchange/Toll Plaza and paying a fare.

**E. PROCEDURES:**

Authorized and Emergency vehicles making U-Turns at wide area median locations must display visual warning devices while making the maneuver. U-Turns at such locations shall only be made when necessary and not as a matter of convenience. The U-Turn movement shall not interfere or compromise the safety of traffic traveling in either direction.

All vehicles towing damaged or disabled vehicles shall use an access gate(s) for the U-Turn unless authorized otherwise by PSP or PTC Maintenance personnel. The U-Turn shall then only be made under the direction of PSP or PTC Maintenance personnel.

Interchange/Toll Plaza U-Turn Policies: The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) or authorized Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) personnel may authorize a U-Turn for emergency and non-emergency situations e.g. Over-height, Restricted Cargo, etc.

The Interchange Manager shall coordinate authorized U-Turns at Interchanges/Toll Plazas, with the assistance of Turnpike Maintenance personnel. The driver of a non-authorized motor vehicle may reverse direction of travel only by passing through an Interchange and paying a toll.

If the Interchange Manager is not available, the Duty Officer will be contacted for authorization and coordination.

Each department shall refer to their specific procedures for further information.

*This Policy Letter supersedes all previous Policy Letters on this subject.*