



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 Interchange/Toll Plaza, the Toll Collector will notify the Interchange Manager on call.

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.