The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) provides standards and guidelines for the use of traffic signs, pavement markings, traffic signals, and other traffic control devices in our state. The Manual applies to all roads open to public travel in Ohio.

Street Name signs are addressed in OMUTCD Part 2 (Signs) – Section 2D.43. Several excerpts and highlights from Section 2D.43 are summarized below.

**Sign Designations and Application**

The two basic types of Street Name signs listed in the OMUTCD are designated as D3-1 and D3-1a. The following examples are from Figure 2D-10 in the Manual.

![E Main St](D3-1) ![56 E Winchester St](D3-1a)

**Guidance:**

_Street Name (D3-1 or D3-1a) signs (see Figure 2D-10) should be installed in urban areas at all street intersections regardless of other route signs that might be present and should be installed in rural areas to identify important roads that are not otherwise signed._

**Option:**

For streets that are part of a U.S., State, or county numbered route, a D3-1a Street Name sign (see Figure 2D-10) that incorporates a route shield may be used to assist road users who might not otherwise be able to associate the name of the street with the route number.

**Lettering**

**Standard:**

_The lettering for names of streets and highways on Street Name signs shall be composed of a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters (see Section 2A.13)._
[ Note: The use of all capital letters for Street Name signs is no longer allowed. Existing Street Name signs that have all capital letters, but otherwise meet MUTCD requirements, can remain in place until they need to be replaced due to end of service life or some other reason. Source: Federal Register – FHWA Notice, 11/30/10. ]

Guidance:
Lettering on post-mounted Street Name signs should be composed of initial upper-case letters at least 6 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 4.5 inches in height.

On multi-lane streets with speed limits greater than 40 mph, the lettering on post-mounted Street Name signs should be composed of initial upper-case letters at least 8 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 6 inches in height.

Option:
For local roads with speed limits of 25 mph or less, the lettering on post-mounted Street Name signs may be composed of initial upper-case letters at least 4 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 3 inches in height.

Guidance:
If overhead Street Name signs are used, the lettering should be composed of initial upper-case letters at least 12 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 9 inches in height.

Support:
The recommended minimum letter heights for Street Name signs are summarized in Table 2D-2.

Option:
Supplementary lettering to indicate the type of street (such as Street, Avenue, or Road) or the section of the city (such as NW) on the D3-1 and D3-1a signs may be in smaller lettering, composed of initial upper-case letters at least 3 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 2.25 inches in height. Conventional abbreviations (see Section 1A.15) may be used except for the street name itself.

Table 2D-2. Recommended Minimum Letter Heights on Street Name Signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mounting</th>
<th>Types of Street or Highway</th>
<th>Speed Limit</th>
<th>Recommended Minimum Letter Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Initial Upper-Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>All speed limits</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Mounted</td>
<td>Multi-lane</td>
<td>More than 40 mph</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Mounted</td>
<td>Multi-lane</td>
<td>40 mph or less</td>
<td>6 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Mounted</td>
<td>2-lane</td>
<td>All speed limits</td>
<td>6 inches*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* On local two-lane streets with speed limits of 25 mph or less, 4-inch initial upper-case letters with 3-inch lower-case letters may be used.
A pictograph (see definition in Section 1A.13) may be used on a D3-1 sign.

Pictograph—a pictorial representation used to identify a governmental jurisdiction, an area of jurisdiction, a governmental agency, a military base or branch of service, a governmental-approved university or college, a toll payment system, or a government-approved institution.

**Standard:**
Pictographs shall not be displayed on D3-1a or Advance Street Name (D3-2) signs (see Section 2D.44).

If a pictograph is used on a D3-1 sign, the height and width of the pictograph shall not exceed the upper-case letter height of the principal legend of the sign.

**Guidance:**
The pictograph should be positioned to the left of the street name.

**Retroreflectivity and Color**

**Standard:**
The Street Name sign shall be retroreflective or illuminated to show the same shape and similar color both day and night. The color of the legend (and border, if used) shall contrast with the background color of the sign.

**Option:**
The border may be omitted from a Street Name sign.

An alternative background color other than the normal guide sign color of green may be used for Street Name (D3-1 or D3-1a) signs where the highway agency determines this is necessary to assist road users in determining jurisdictional authority for roads.

**Standard:**
Alternative background colors shall not be used for Advance Street Name (D3-2) signs (see Section 2D.44).

The only acceptable alternative background colors for Street Name (D3-1 or D3-1a) signs shall be blue, brown, or white. Regardless of whether green, blue, or brown is used as the background color for Street Name (D3-1 or D3-1a) signs, the legend (and border, if used) shall be white. For Street Name signs that use a white background, the legend (and border, if used) shall be black.

**Guidance:**
An alternative background color for Street Name signs, if used, should be applied to the Street Name (D3-1 or D3-1a) signs on all roadways under the jurisdiction of a particular highway agency.
For Additional Information . . .

Please refer to OMUTCD Part 2, and the complete text of Section 2D.43 and other sections referenced therein, for additional information and guidance regarding Street Name signs.

Also available as a resource is another Route of Navigation (RON) Technical Update called “Street Name Signs and STOP Signs / YIELD Signs”. This and several other RON publications can be accessed from the Ohio LTAP website, at:
http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/LocalPrograms/LTAP/Pages/Route_of_Navigation_Series.aspx.

“Who can I call if I have questions?”
Questions about traffic signs may be directed to Jim Roth, P.E., Signing Engineer with ODOT’s Office of Traffic Operations, at (614) 752-0438. Assistance may also be available from Traffic Engineering staff at the ODOT District Office in your area, or from your County Engineer's Office.

“How can I access the OMUTCD?”
The 2012 Edition of the OMUTCD is available online for viewing or downloading (free of charge), at: www.dot.state.oh.us/omutcd. Printed copies are also available. The Manual is provided free to government agencies, local jurisdictions, schools and public libraries; to others there will be a charge. The cost is $34.50 plus shipping and tax. Requests should be directed to ODOT's Office of Contracts at 1-800-459-3778 or 614-466-3778.

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