

# Signs, Signs, Everywhere There's signs...

You too can be a transportation engineer! Did you know that the United States Department of Transportation makes sure all traffic signs mean the same thing wherever you go? That means whether you are driving through Massachusetts, Mississippi, or Montana, the signs are the same! They even wrote a book about it, called the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices", and you can read it if you want: [https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf\\_index.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf_index.htm)

See if you can match the sign to its meaning below.

Have you ever seen any of these signs while riding through town in your car or school bus?



- A. No Pedestrian Crossing
- B. Farm Vehicle
- C. No Straight Through
- D. No U-Turn
- E. Slippery When Wet

- F. Pay Station
- G. Cross Road
- H. Keep Right
- I. Stop Ahead
- J. Winding Road

- K. Two Direction
- L. Roundabout Circulation Plaque
- M. Left Turn Only
- N. No Trucks
- O. Photo Enforced

Studies have shown that, on average, a driver will make 50-60 driving decisions per mile. So, for a three-mile drive, like to school or the grocery store, a driver could make almost 200 driving decisions! Having visible, easy-to-recognize signs helps drivers with these split-second decisions, and keeps us all safer on the roads.

Jen Babowicz, PE, a Senior Transportation Engineer, uses these signs to tell drivers what to look for. Jen used to work for the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) where she helped make all Connecticut state roads safer. She has continued that work for the past five years at Fuss & O'Neill working on projects with CTDOT, municipalities across Connecticut, and private developers with a focus on roadway safety and driver mobility.

