

W20-1

Road Work 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 approaching drivers that a work operation is taking place on or near the roadway ahead so they can slow down and stay alert for changing conditions. In the field, W20-1 Road Work Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include lead advance warning sign on lane and shoulder work setups; paired with a distance plaque (e.g. AHEAD or a stated distance); used on streets, highways, and within local agency right-of-way permits. 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