

# W20-5

## Lane Closed 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 that a travel lane is closed ahead and that drivers in that lane will need to merge into an adjacent open lane before the work area. In the field, W20-5 Lane Closed Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include multilane lane-closure setups on streets and highways; used ahead of the merging taper and channelizing devices; paired with W4-2 Lane Ends / Merge symbol signs. 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](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs_2024.htm)