

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION



**Adopted by the Board of County Road
Commissioners, December 28, 2016**

Sign Policy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Purpose and Background	1
II. Unauthorized Signs	1
III. Traffic Sign Standards and Guidance	2
A. Regulatory Signs	2
1. Stop	2
2. Speed Limit	2
3. Load Limits	2
4. Seasonal Weight Restrictions	2
5. No Truck and Engine Braking	2
6. Railroad Cross Bucks	2
7. No Parking	2
8. Seasonal Roads	2
B. Warning Signs	2
1. Horizontal Alignment	2
2. Chevrons	3
3. Crossroads and Side Road	3
4. Stop Ahead	3
5. Reduced Speed Ahead	3
6. Cross Traffic Does Not Stop	3
7. Road Narrows	3
8. Narrow Bridge	3
9. One Lane Bridge	3
10. Pedestrian and Crosswalk	3
11. School Zone	4
12. No Outlet	4
13. Road Ends	4
14. Golf Cart and ORVs	4
15. Rough Road	4
16. Bump or Dip	4
17. Low Clearance	4
18. Horse and Snowmobile	4

19. Bicycle	4
20. Fire Department	4
C. General Information Signs	5
1. Street Name	5
2. Entering Township	5
D. Temporary Signs	5
1. Vendor	5
2. Political	5
3. Real Estate	5
4. Traffic Signals	5
E. Other Signs	6
IV. Policy Implementation	6
V. Damaged Signs	6

I. Purpose and Background

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniformity in the installation and maintenance of signs for the Allegan County Road Commission. The policy recognizes that the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) is the standard for all traffic control devices on all public roads in Michigan and therefore all traffic control devices on the roadway system/public right of way shall conform to its standards and specifications as stipulated in the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300 of 1949, Section 257.608. The purpose of this policy is to describe typical applications and procedures related to placement of signs on roadways for the safety of the public.

It is in the best interest of the Allegan County Road Commission and the public to prevent the excessive use of signs on the roadway system. Traffic sign effectiveness can be severely diminished by improper or overuse. Regulatory and warning signs are installed because of need and in some cases by warranted conditions. A conservative use of traffic signs reduces maintenance costs and improves the effectiveness of those remaining signs.

Eliminating unnecessary signage reduces sign clutter/pollution, lowers maintenance costs, standardizes implementation, and improves traffic safety for the traveling public.

The guidelines set forth in this policy address these subjects and provide criteria by which to evaluate all signing requests consistently and equitably and to ensure that information displayed has value to road users.

This policy supersedes any previous sign policies.

II. Unauthorized Signs

All signs installed without the approval of the Traffic and Safety Director as per the guidelines and Section 609 of the Motor Vehicle Code will be considered unauthorized and therefore may be removed immediately without prior notice.

III. Traffic Sign Standards and Guidance

A. Regulatory Signs

1. Stop Signs:

All Way Panel: At all 3 & 4 way Stops. Multiway stops must meet current MMUTCD warrants.

2. Speed Limit:

Shall only be installed in roadways that have a current Traffic Control Order (TCO).

3. Load Limits:

Shall be used when determined by the County Highway Engineer

4. Seasonal Weight Restrictions:

Shall not be posted on roadways. All Seasonal Weight Restrictions shall be listed on the Allegan County Road Commission website.

5. No Truck and Engine Braking:

Shall only be used where there is a township ordinance. The township will pay all installation and maintenance costs.

6. Railroad Cross Bucks:

Shall be used at all non-signalized crossings.

7. No Parking:

Shall be used in conjunction with TCOs when determined necessary by the Traffic and Safety Director and Michigan Vehicle Code 257.675.

8. Seasonal Roads:

Shall be installed at the approaches to Seasonal Roads. Only Stop Signs and no Warning Signs will be installed on Seasonal Roadways.

B. Warning Signs

1. Horizontal Alignment:

Shall be used when determined by engineering judgement. If a speed 15 mph less than Prima Facia speed limit is indicated to safely maneuver the alignment, then a supplemental speed panel may be used (based on a ball bank indicator).

2. Chevrons:

As determined by the Traffic and Safety Director in applicable curves. Also, used in pairs of two or four replacing double arrows, at 'T' intersections.

3. Crossroads and Side Road:

May be used to warn of slowing or turning vehicles or limited sight distance as determined by the Traffic and Safety Director. A supplemental road name panel may be used, as determined by the Traffic and Safety Director. Supplemental speed panels shall not be used.

4. Stop Ahead:

Shall be used at all approaches to stop controlled intersections (exception: short subdivision roads with no vision obstruction and seasonal roads).

5. Reduced Speed Ahead:

Shall be used in advance of lower posted speed zones that are authorized by a TCO.

6. Cross Traffic Does Not Stop:

Shall be used in combination with a stop sign when determined necessary by the Traffic and Safety Director.

7. Road Narrows:

Shall be used where road narrows to a point on a two-lane roadway where vehicles may not be able to pass without reducing speed.

8. Narrow Bridge:

Shall be installed and maintained in advance of all bridges or culverts having a two-way roadway clearance width of less than 19 feet but more than 17 feet per Michigan State Statue 254.20

9. One Lane Bridge:

Shall be installed and maintained in advance of all bridges and culverts having a two-way roadway clearance width 17 feet or less as per Michigan State Statue 254.20.

10. Pedestrian and Crosswalk:

When requests from schools or townships for pedestrian crossings are received, the Traffic and Safety Director shall conduct a study to determine if a crosswalk is warranted. If warranted, the proper signs shall be installed. The requesting entity shall be responsible for any enhancements such as lights and ADA ramps. The enhancements must be installed prior to signing. All enhancement, installation, and maintenance costs shall be the responsibility of the requesting entity.

11. School Zone:

The ACRC shall install all mandatory signs per Michigan Vehicle Code 257.627 A(1)(c). All enhancement, installation, and maintenance costs shall be the responsibility of the requesting entity.

12. No Outlet:

Shall be installed at the entrance to a road or road network from which there is no other exit.

13. Road Ends:

Shall be installed at the termination of a road as determined by the Traffic and Safety Director.

14. Golf Cart and ORVs:

Shall only be installed in the area of a golf course or if request by a township that has an ordinance which allows operations. Requesting party pays all installation and maintenance costs.

15. Rough Road:

When conditions warrant installation as a temporary sign as determined by the Traffic and Safety Director.

16. Bump or Dip:

May be used to alert to a rise or depression in the roadway as determined by the Traffic and Safety Director.

17. Low Clearance:

Shall be installed when vertical clearance is less than 13'6".

18. Horse and Snowmobile:

Shall only be installed at points of crossing a roadway on a designated trail, or if the trail runs parallel to the roadway. As approved by the Traffic and Safety Director.

19. Bicycle:

Shall only be installed on a designated Federal/State Route (i.e. BR 35). If approved for installation, all signs shall be furnished to ACRC.

20. Fire Department:

If a township requests fire department signs or other enhancements, the request must be made in writing and the requesting jurisdiction will pay all installation and maintenance costs.

C. General Information Signs

1. Street Name:

Public street name signs will be installed at all intersections. All public roads will be green with white letters.

2. Entering Township:

If requested by a township, the request must be made in writing and the requesting jurisdiction will pay all installation and maintenance costs.

D. Temporary Signs

1. Vendor:

Not permitted in the right of way.

2. Political:

Must follow State Law for when they can be placed and then removed. Cannot be a vision obstruction. Must have property owner's permission. Maximum size in the right of way is 24" X 24".

3. Real Estate:

Must not create vision obstructions, shall not violate township sign ordinances, & shall not be placed without the property owner's permission.

4. Traffic Signals:

Shall only be installed at intersections that meet MMUTCD warrants.

E. Other Signs

The following shall **not** be installed:

Dead End	Watershed
Deer and other Animal	No Passing and Pass with Care
Playground	General Services (e.g. fuel/hospital etc.)
Hidden Drive	Destination (e.g. Cities/Villages)
Tractor and Truck Crossing	Signs for Businesses
Handicap	School Bus Stop

IV. Policy Implementation

When signs are requested or replaced it shall be under this policy adopted by the Allegan County Road Commission. Signs may also be removed as needed when approved by the Traffic and Safety Director.

V. Damaged Signs

Allegan County Road Commission will seek recovery of damages for any sign damaged by the motoring public. A crash report will be used for the information to bill the driver(s) involved in the crash. If two vehicles are involved, then a bill for 50% shall be sent to each insurance company. If a party does not have insurance, then they will be directly billed for said damages.