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320.01 General

It is essential that the driver of a vehicle be able to gather information in time to make careful decisions. Roadside signs and adjacent vegetation must be designed, located and maintained to facilitate safe driving. WSDOT does not remove or trim vegetation to increase visibility of signs that are physically located outside of the right of way.

Signs both on and off the right of way are strictly regulated by an array of statutes and regulations to assure that motorists receive proper warning, guidance, and services information while maintaining the integrity of the roadside environment.

320.02 References

320.02(1) Design Guidance

Design Manual, M 22-01, WSDOT

[Motorist Information Sign Program, WSDOT](#)

[Highway Advertising Control Program, WSDOT](#)

Roadside Policy Manual, M 3110, WSDOT

Scenic Byway Logo Signing Guidelines, M 3001, WSDOT

Traffic Manual, M 51-02, WSDOT

320.03 Resources

Regions' and HQ Traffic Office

Headquarters (HQ) Design Office

Regional and HQ Real Estate Services Offices

Maintenance Offices

For gateway signing, refer to the Roadside Policy Manual, and Design Manual, Chapter 950, for signs that exceed the allowable limit found in the Traffic Manual.

320.04 Primary Considerations

- Consult signing specialists and outdoor advertising representatives in the region's and HQ Traffic Office about signing related procedures and issues.
- Establishing access control can affect legally permitted outdoor advertising signs located on adjacent private property. The region's and HQ Real Estate Services offices are responsible for compensation procedures.
- Integrate sign locations with existing and proposed conditions.
 - Consider existing vegetation when placing signs.
 - Coordinate sign location with the region's Traffic Engineer.
- Coordinate new plantings with the region's Landscape Architect.

To decide whether a sign is needed, given a certain set of roadway and traffic conditions, the engineer must rely on judgment and consistent criteria that is based on:

- An understanding of the road user's information needs and how road users acquire information.
- A vision of traffic control, wherein individual traffic signs are viewed as part of a larger system of signs, signals and markings that provide clear and timely information to the road user.
- Accepted procedures and devices resulting from traffic control engineering studies.