

**ROAD COMMISSION
FOR
MONTCALM COUNTY**



**Adopted by the Board of County Road
Commissioners February 13, 2019**

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. All-Way	2
3. Speed Limit	2
4. Advance Intersection Lane Control	2
5. No Parking, Clear Vision Area	2
6. Road Closed	2
7. Bridge and Structure Restrictions	2
8. Seasonal Load and Speed Restrictions	3
9. Seasonal Road	3
10. Grade Crossing	3
11. Ordinance	3
B. Warning Signs	3
1. Horizontal Alignment	3
2. One-Direction Arrow	3
3. Two-Direction Arrow	4
4. Chevron	4
5. Cross Road and Side Road	4
6. Advance Traffic Control - Stop Ahead	4
7. Reduced Speed Limit Ahead	4
8. Lane Ends	4
9. Cross Traffic Does Not Stop	4
10. Road Narrows and Narrow Road	4
11. Narrow Bridge	4
12. One Lane Bridge	4
13. Bump and Dip	5
14. Pavement Ends	5
15. Pedestrian Warning	5

16. Fire Station Warning	5
17. Golf Carts	5
18. Bicycle	5
19. Low Clearance	5
20. Advisory Speed	5
21. Dead End or No Outlet	5
22. Road Ends and End of Road	5
C. General Information Signs	6
1. Street Name	6
2. Entering County/Township	6
3. Cemetery, Hospital, Library	6
4. County Road Route	6
D. Temporary Signs	6
1. Vendor	6
2. Political	7
3. Real Estate	7
4. Traffic Signals	7
E. Miscellaneous Signs	7
F. Cities / Villages / Other	7
IV. Policy Implementation	8
V. Damaged Signs	8

I. Purpose and Background

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniformity in the installation and maintenance of signs for the Road Commission for Montcalm County (RCMC). The policy recognizes that the current 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 RCMC 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 the RCMC roadways for the safety of the public.

It is in the best interest of the RCMC 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.

II. Unauthorized Signs

All signs installed without the approval of the RCMC as per the guidelines and Section 609 of the Michigan 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 (R1-1)

The Stop sign shall be installed and maintained at all county roadway intersections with publicly maintained roadways.

2. ALL-WAY (R1-3P)

The All-Way plaque shall be installed and maintained for every all-way stop intersection

3. SPEED LIMIT (R2-1)

The Speed Limit sign shall only be installed and maintained for authorized speed zones having an approved Traffic Control Order (TCO).

4. ADVANCE INTERSECTION LANE CONTROL (R3-30 series)

The Advance Intersection Lane Control sign shall be installed and maintained at all signalized intersections when approved by the RCMC.

5. NO PARKING and CLEAR VISION AREA (R7 and R8 series)

The No Parking sign shall only be installed and maintained for zones where parking has been restricted by a TCO from the Michigan State Police or by a resolution passed by the RCMC. The Clear Vision Area shall be installed and maintained when authorized by the RCMC.

6. ROAD CLOSED (R11 Series)

The Road Closed sign shall be used when a road is closed to all traffic except authorized vehicles. Emergency road closures shall use a Road Closed sign placed upon a Type III Barricade.

7. BRIDGE and STRUCTURE WEIGHT, WIDTH and HEIGHT RESTRICTION (R12-1a)

The Bridge and Structure Weight Restriction signs shall be installed and maintained for all restricted bridges, as close to the restricted bridge or structure as possible. The On Bridge Ahead sign shall be installed with the Weight Restriction sign in advance of the restricted bridge or structure at the nearest intersections approaching the restriction.

8. SEASONAL LOAD and SPEED RESTRICTIONS

The Seasonal Load and Speed Restrictions in Effect sign may be installed and maintained during periods when weight and speed restrictions are in effect. Placement of these signs shall be determined by the RCMC.

9. SEASONAL ROAD

The Seasonal Road sign shall be installed and maintained on roads not maintained during winter months (typically November – April). A resolution by the RCMC board is required before posting a road as a seasonal road.

10. GRADE CROSSING (CROSSBUCK)(R15-1)

The Railroad authority is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the Crossbuck sign at signalized grade crossings. The RCMC will install and maintain the Railroad Crossing sign at un-signalized grade crossings.

11. ORDINANCE

Ordinance signs displaying County or Township ordinances shall be installed and maintained when approved by the RCMC. The ordinance displayed on the sign shall only apply to traffic operations. A Township shall be responsible for all costs associated to install and maintain ordinance signs.

B. Warning Signs

1. HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT (W1-1 through W1-5, W1-10 Series)

Horizontal Alignment signs shall be installed and maintained when determined by the RCMC. If a speed is 15 mph or less than the Prima Facia speed limit is indicated to safely maneuver the alignment, then a supplemental speed may be used based on a Ball Bank indicator.

2. ONE-DIRECTION ARROW (W1-6)

The One-Direction Arrow sign shall be installed and maintained when a Turn sign (W1-1) or Reverse Turn sign (W1-3) is installed. The sign may also be installed when a Curve sign (W1-2), Reverse Curve sign (W1-3) or Winding Road sign (W1-5) is installed. Installation of these signs will be determined by the RCMC.

3. TWO-DIRECTION ARROW (W1-7)

The Two-Direction Arrow sign may be installed and maintained at a “T” intersection when approved by the RCMC.

4. CHERVON (W1-8)

The Chevron Alignment sign may be installed at the discretion of the RCMC.

5. CROSS ROAD and SIDE ROAD (W2-1 and W2-2)

The Cross Road or Side Road sign may be used in advance of an intersection to indicate the presence of an intersection and the possibility of turning or entering traffic.

6. ADVANCE TRAFFIC CONTROL – STOP AHEAD (W3-1)

The Advance Traffic Control sign shall be installed and maintained in advance of Stop signs on non-dead end paved roads. The Stop Ahead signs may be used in urban areas when approved by the RCMC.

7. REDUCED SPEED LIMIT AHEAD (W3-5)

The Reduced Speed Limit Ahead sign shall be installed and maintained when entering a zone with a lower speed limit of at least 10 mph and is also authorized by a TCO.

8. LANE ENDS (W4-2 and W9-2)

The Lane Ends and Merge signs shall be installed and maintained when there is a reduction in the number of traffic lanes in the same direction of travel.

9. CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP (W4-4P)

The Cross Traffic Does Not Stop sign may be installed and maintained in combination with a Stop sign when approved by the RCMC.

10. ROAD NARROWS and NARROW ROAD (W5-1)

The Road Narrows sign shall be installed and maintained where the road pavement width (including shoulders) significantly changes along a road segment. The Narrow Road sign may be used when approved by the RCMC. A Speed Advisory plaque may also be used.

11. NARROW BRIDGE (W5-2)

The Narrow Bridge sign shall be installed and maintained in advance of bridges or culverts having a two-way roadway clearance width less than 19 feet but more than 17 feet as per Michigan State Statute 254.20.

12. ONE LANE BRIDGE (W5-3)

The One Lane Bridge sign shall be installed and maintained in advance of all bridges or culverts having a two-way roadway clearance of 17 feet or less per Michigan State Statute 254.20.

13. BUMP and DIP (W8-1, W8-1a, W8-1b, W8-2)

Bump or Dip signs shall be installed and maintained at a hazardous location if approved by the RCMC.

14. PAVEMENT ENDS (W8-3)

The Pavement Ends sign shall be installed and maintained 550' before a paved surface changes to a gravel or earth surface as determined by the RCMC.

15. PEDESTRIAN WARNING (W11-2 and W16 Series)

The Pedestrian Warning shall be installed and maintained at a pedestrian road crossing and may be supplemented by a diagonal downward pointing arrow (W16-7P) when approved by the RCMC.

16. FIRE STATION WARNING (W11-8)

The Fire Station Warning sign shall be installed and maintained if requested. The requesting jurisdiction shall be responsible for all costs to install and maintain the sign(s).

17. GOLF CARTS (W11-11)

The Golf Cart Warning sign shall be installed and maintained near a golf course if requested by the Township. The Township shall be responsible for all costs to install and maintain the sign.

18. BICYCLE (W11-15, W11-15a)

The Bicycle/Pedestrian and Trail Crossing signs shall be installed and maintained on a designated State Route as determined by the RCMC. Other Bicycle signs may be placed at the request of a Township or Trail Group with the requestor responsible for all costs.

19. LOW CLEARANCE (W12-2, W12-2a, W12-X2)

The Low Clearance sign shall be installed and maintained where the clearance of a bridge or structure is less than 13 feet 6 inches.

20. ADVISORY SPEED (W13-1P)

The Advisory Speed sign shall be installed and maintained when specified by this Policy, the MMUTCD or the RCMC.

21. DEAD END or NO OUTLET (W14-1, W14-2)

The Dead-End sign may be installed and maintained at the beginning of all dead-end county roadways, excluding subdivisions. The No Outlet sign shall be installed and maintained at the entrance to a road or road network from which there is no other exit.

22. ROAD ENDS and End of Road (W14-2a, OM4-3)

The Road Ends and End of Road sign shall be installed and maintained at the termination of a county road at the determination of the RCMC.

23. TYPE 3 OBJECT MARKER (OM3 Series)

The Clearance Marker shall be installed and maintained to mark obstructions within or adjacent to the roadway such as bridge abutments or culverts. Standard placement is on each corner of the bridge deck or culvert headwalls.

24. DELINEATORS

Delineators shall consist of a green, 4-inch reflector mounted on a 7-foot post. They are placed at drains and culvert to help in location.

C. General Information Signs

1. STREET NAME (D3-1)

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

2. ENTERING COUNTY/TOWNSHIP

Entering Montcalm County signs shall be installed and maintained at all primary roads at the county line. Entering Township signs shall be installed and maintained when a written request is received. The requesting Township shall cover all costs.

3. COUNTY ROAD ROUTE

County Road Route signs shall be installed and maintained at all paved primary to primary intersections and at paved primary to county line intersections.

4. MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS

The following signs may be installed and maintained by the RCMC when requested. The requestor shall be responsible for all costs to install and maintain signs.

Blind Person/Deaf Child – May be installed if a written request is received. The requesting party shall submit annually a statement that the sign is still needed. The requesting party shall be responsible for all costs to install and maintain the sign(s).

Cemetery
Destination (City, Park, Village)
Hospital
Library
Neighborhood Watch

D. Temporary Signs

1. VENDOR

Not permitted in the right of way.

2. POLITICAL

See the RCMC Political Sign Policy 2013-01 at www.montcalmroads.com

3. REAL ESTATE

Real Estate signs shall not create vision obstructions, shall not violate Township sign ordinances, and shall not be placed without the property owner's permission.

4. TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Shall only be installed at intersections that meet MMUTCD warrants.

E. The following signs shall not be installed:

Business

Church

Deer and other Animals

General Services (fuel, lodging, store)

Hidden Drive

Hill Blocks View

Horse and Buggy

Lake, River or Stream Name

No Passing and Pass With Care

Playground

School Bus Stop

Tractor or Truck Crossing

F. Cities / Villages / Other

The RCMC may make and install signs for other agencies to be placed on their road system. The costs for these shall be time and material. The RCMC shall not be responsible for the maintenance of these signs.

IV. Policy Implementation

When signs are requested or replaced it shall be under this policy adopted by the RCMC. Signs may also be removed as needed when approved by the RCMC.

V. Damaged Signs

The RCMC will seek recovery costs 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.