

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering Guidelines

NUMBER: TG-19

SUBJECT: Replacement of Outdated or Inappropriate Signs

BACKGROUND: The Department erects many signs for various purposes that may be appropriate at a given time and for various reasons they become outdated or inappropriate.

GUIDELINE: Before replacing any non-standard regulatory or guide sign, or any warning sign that addresses potential hazards that may change from year to year, consideration should be given to whether the sign should be replaced. Specific examples of these type signs are below. The list is not all inclusive and judgment should be used to determine whether other signs could be removed.

- **State Championship Signs** – These signs are erected for the year the championship is won and shall be removed and returned to the school when a new champion is named.
- **Colorful Spaces Signs** – If a wildflower plot or other beautification is not maintained, signs should be removed.
- **Congested Area Signs** – If congestion is not an issue due to a change in land usage this sign should be removed.
- **Deaf Child/Blind Child Plaques** – Traffic Engineering Guideline 15 describes the use of this sign and when it should be removed.
- **Golf Cart Crossing** – A review should be conducted to determine that the crossing is active.
- **Low Flying Aircraft** – When signs are installed other than in the vicinity of an Airport (such as a crop dusting area) a review should be made to determine whether these activities are current.
- **Plant Entrance** – Assure plant is open and has significant traffic. Some manufacturing facilities have reduced the number of employees and congestion during shift change is no longer significant.
- **Trucks Entering Highway or Truck Crossing** – Assure there are significant trucks entering.
- **Deer Crossing** – Review the crash history to determine whether there is evidence of vehicle/deer collisions.
- **Horse, Cattle, or Farm Machinery Signs** – Review to determine that these activities still warrant signing.
- **School Bus Stop Ahead Signs** – This sign should be reviewed annually with the school district transportation supervisor to determine whether the bus stop will remain at its current location.

- **Unlawful to Litter Signs** – Review area to determine whether littering or dumping warrants signing.
- **New Plaque** – This plaque is used with load notice signs at bridges (See Engineering Directive Memorandum 11), Stop Ahead Signs at a new 4-Way Stop (See Engineering Directive Memorandum 6) and Signal Ahead Signs (See SCDOT Traffic Signal Design Guidelines, Chapter 3). The New Plaque should be removed as specified in the above documents.
- **Signal Ahead Signs** – Before replacing Signal Ahead signs review the approach sight distance and determine whether the sign continues to be necessary.
- **Advisory Speed Limit Plaques** – Before replacing these plaques a review should be conducted to determine whether conditions continue to warrant a reduced speed.
- **Minimum Speed Limits** – Unless there is evidence of a problem concerning slow moving vehicles, this sign should not be used on non-interstate routes.
- **Any temporary signs** (Rough Road, Bump, Soft Shoulder, Low Shoulder, etc.) should be removed as soon as the condition is corrected.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Signs** – These signs located at the county lines in most counties should not be replaced when no longer serviceable.

Approved:

Director of Traffic Engineering

12-20-2018

Date

Original Guideline Signed on May 6, 2008