

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Traffic Guide Sign Design Manual has been developed to provide training on the design of guide signs. Participants will learn the fundamentals needed to design guide signs. The software package SignCAD will be used to demonstrate design elements and to develop guide sign examples.

To achieve this goal, this Manual has been divided into five chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1 is the Introduction to the course.
- Chapter 2 presents Basic Information and some background information on guide signs.
- Chapter 3 covers Sign Components including panel sizes, radii, borders, margins, colors, letter sizes, fonts, horizontal and vertical lines, route markers, arrows, fractions, and abbreviations.
- Chapter 4 includes the Example Problems.
- Chapter 5 is the Appendix with Font Spacing Charts, References, List of Definitions, and the Index.

The purpose of this Traffic Guide Sign Design Manual is to present the fundamental concepts of traffic guide sign design and to use these basics to develop signs using the SignCAD software.

1.2 Acknowledgments

The development of this Traffic Guide Sign Design Manual has been a result of the combined efforts of the Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, Security and Technology, and Albeck Gerken, Inc. The contributions by John Benson, Rick Sunstrom, and Mike Weiss are gratefully acknowledged.

1.3 Disclaimer

This Manual is disseminated under the sponsorship of Mn/DOT, Office of Traffic, Security and Technology. Mn/DOT and Albeck Gerken, Inc assume no liability for its contents or use thereof.

Mn/DOT does not endorse products or manufacturers. Trademarks of manufacturers' names may appear herein only because they are considered essential to the purpose of this manual.

The contents of this manual reflect the views of the authors, who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein.

This manual addresses the design layout of guide sign panels only and does not address related guide sign topics such as sign structure design, sign location and placement, or sign message content.

Mere possession of this manual does not qualify an individual to design traffic guide signs. Designing traffic guide signs is an integrated process that requires a solid understanding of signing fundamentals.