



## Supplemental Guide Signing Programs

In order for a facility to receive supplemental guide signing, the sign location must meet engineering standards and the facility must meet MnDOT policy.

### Engineering Standards

Engineering standards involve the design and placement of signs. The main purpose of signing is to inform motorists of regulations such as speed limits and stops, warn them of any impending dangers such as sharp curves and steep grades, and help them find their destination by clearly marking routes and cross streets. Signs must be properly spaced so that motorists have time to perceive the information on signs and make the appropriate driving maneuver. For example, on a freeway, guide signs should be spaced approximately 800 feet apart.

Furthermore, different types of signs (regulatory, warning, and guide) can not be combined. For example, mixing a golf course sign with a speed limit sign is not allowed. This leaves limited space for supplemental guide signs.

### MnDOT Policy

There is tremendous demand for signing along our highway system; many businesses, organizations and agencies feel that they need and deserve signing to advertise, inform and/or aid the motorist in locating their establishment. As discussed under engineering standards, it is necessary to limit all signing to only that which is sufficient to aid drivers in safely arriving at their destination. As such, MnDOT policy and state law set out criteria that a facility must meet in order to be eligible for signing.

## LOGO



- Gas, food, lodging, camping, 24-hour pharmacies and attractions.
- Signs may be installed on interstates and certain other controlled-access (freeway) highways.
- Each facility must meet certain criteria related to hours of operation, licensing, distance from interchange, etc.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance are paid by the business.
- This program is managed by Minnesota Logos, Inc. under an agreement with MnDOT.

## General Motorists Services



- Gas, food, lodging, camping and hospitals.
- Signs may be installed at rural freeway and expressway interchanges.
- Each facility must meet certain criteria related to hours of operation, licensing, distance from interchange, etc.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance are paid by MnDOT. MnDOT provides trailblazing signs.

## Major Traffic Generators



- Major regional attractions that attract persons or groups beyond the local area.
- Facilities must have parking for at least 1,000 vehicles, a minimum of 10 events per year, and average event attendance of at least 5,000 persons.
- Signs may be installed on any trunk highway.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance of these signs are paid by the traffic generator. Trailblazing must be provided by the facility or local road authority.

## Other Traffic Generators



- Include Airports, Casinos, Educational Institutions, National Parks, Regional Shopping Centers, and State Parks. Criteria vary.
- Signs may be installed on any trunk highway.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance of these signs are paid by the traffic generator. Trailblazing must be provided by the facility or local road authority.

## Minor Traffic Generators



- Facilities that generally attract non-local persons or groups, but do not qualify as major generators. These facilities should have broad motorist appeal, serve non-familiar motorists, and are the type of facility for which a motorist normally expects highway signing.
- Facilities are typically cultural, recreational, or historic attractions.
- Facilities must meet certain criteria related to hours of operation, etc.
- These signs may be installed at at-grade intersections and some expressway interchanges.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance of these signs are paid by the traffic generator. Trailblazing must be provided by the facility or local road authority.

## Specific Services



- Gas, food, lodging, places of worship, rural agricultural businesses and tourist-oriented businesses.
- The criteria for installation of these signs (hours, types of businesses, etc.) are primarily defined in Minnesota Statutes 160.292 – 160.297.
- These signs can only be installed in rural areas at at-grade intersections or at rural bypasses that have interchanges on expressways.
- The cost of fabrication, installation, and maintenance of these signs are paid by the facility. Trailblazing must be provided by the facility or local road authority.