



Traffic Control Devices

Public Works
Policy N10

Policy:	N10 – Traffic Control Devices
Policy Department(s):	Public Works
Adoption Date:	August 29, 2005
Adoption Reference:	08/10552005
Effective Date:	August 29, 2005
Last Amended:	September 12, 2022

Policy Purpose

To provide guidance to County Administration on the installation and placement of traffic control devices throughout the County.

Policy Statement

The County provides effective transportation networks that take advantage of responsive technology and align with the needs of residents, business, and industry.

Definitions

"Condition Assessment" is a score assigned to a traffic control device which considers reflectivity, age, vandalism, wear, peeling and/or damage.

"County" means the municipality of the County of Grande Prairie No.1 having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

"Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)" means the person appointed by Council to the position of Chief Administrative Officer under the Municipal Government Act for the County or designate.

"Right of Way" is a general term referring to land between property lines that the public is ordinarily entitled or permitted to use for the passage or parking of vehicles, or for pedestrian use, and can include a sidewalk, boulevard, carriageway, berm, ditch, swale, bicycle facility, noise attenuation facility, and landscaping.

"School Zone" or "Playground Zone" is a section of roadway adjacent to a school or playground that is denoted by School Area or Playground Area signage and a 30 km/h speed limit sign.

"Traffic Control Devices" means any sign, signal, marking or device placed, marked or erected for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic.

Policy Guidelines

1. Traffic Control Devices will be placed and maintained in accordance with applicable legislation, and with appropriate technical manuals, reports and informational publications.



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Traffic Control Devices are to be placed in accordance with the Alberta Transportation and Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines.

2. The Public Works Department will record and review existing and potential Traffic Control Devices, including a Condition Assessment every two (2) years on an annual basis or as required, to accommodate changes in traffic and other conditions.
3. Unauthorized signs will be removed from the County Right of Way without notice or compensation, including entering private land if required.

Administrative Recommendations

4. Changes or additions to existing signs might occur to correct for poor visibility, higher than expected accident frequencies or rates, complex visual environments, and other such detrimental circumstances.
5. Any changes or additional regulatory signs will be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer or their delegate, being the Director of Public Works.

Requests for Traffic Control Devices

6. The public may request additional or revised Traffic Control Devices by applying to the County.
7. Requests will be reviewed by the Public Works Department and if determined acceptable, will be installed by County forces.
8. Application denials or where such changes lie outside the general guidance provided by this policy or authority of the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designate, the applicant may schedule an appointment to present to Council for further consideration.

Traffic Control Devices for Temporary Activity

9. Traffic Control Devices for temporary roads, lanes, accesses or other activities must comply with the guidelines stated in this policy.
10. Signage for road construction undertaken by County contractors or other agencies may operate outside this policy but will adhere to the Traffic Accommodation Strategy (TAS) approved by the County. Including completion and filing of Alberta Transportation Notification of Highway and Bridge Construction Operations and Order Fixing Maximum Speed Limit forms.

School and Playground Zones

11. Schools often require special consideration and treatment in determining appropriate Traffic Control Devices to balance the needs of pedestrian and vehicular traffic to maintain the highest levels of safety. The County will follow the most current version of Alberta Transportation's 'Guidelines for School & Playground Zones & Areas', for placement and implementation in these areas.



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12. Playground Zones will be treated in a manner similar to that mentioned above for School Zones.
13. Pedestrian crossings are to be designed according to the County of Grande Prairie Design Standards.

Attachments

Schedule A – Guidelines for Private Signs

Schedule B – Guidelines for Private Signs – IC Series, Off Road Facilities

References

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 Traffic Safety Act Public Highways Development Act Alberta Transportation's 'Guidelines for School & Playground Zones & Areas'
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc.	Policy B1 – Policy Development General Traffic Bylaw County of Grande Prairie Design Standards Alberta Transportation Notification of Highway and Bridge Construction Operations Alberta Transportation Order Fixing Maximum Speed Limit
Other	Application for Sign Installation – available on the County website

Revision History

Review Date	Description
September 12, 2022	Reviewed and Amended CM20220912.009
August 29, 2005	Adoption Date 08/1055/2005



Schedule A – Guidelines for Private Signs

Sign requirements:

- Aluminum panels (.081") 2mm thickness, with rounded corners and conform to ASTM B209M sign sheet aluminum grade 5052-H38
- Signs larger than 90 cm wide shall be on 10 mm (3/4") thick HDO sign board. 100/100 or 120/120 Hi-Density Plywood
- Signs to meet minimum requirements of ASTM-D4956 Type III or IV High Intensity Retro-Reflective Sheeting. 3M High Intensity Prismatic 3930 sheeting or better preferred
- Text will be all capital letters and a minimum of three (3) inches.
- Panels in multiples of 150mm
- Be professionally fabricated to Alberta Transportation specifications

Posts requirements:

Permanent Signs:

- Wood to be 4 x 4" pressure treated minimum depth 1.5 meter below grade

Temporary Signs:

- U-Channel to have 3' anchor
- Telespar (Perforated Square Tube) to have 3' penetrator anchors with square steel post.
- Concrete bases are NOT permitted

Any sign larger than 120 cm wide must be mounted shall be on 2 posts.

Placement

- 150-250 meters from intersection or driveway approach in rural applications
- 50-100 meters in urban applications, site specific location

Lateral:

- Rural: 2.0-4.5 meters from road shoulder
- Urban: 0.3-2.0 meters from curb or road shoulder

Vertical:

- Rural: 1.5-2.5 meters from road shoulder to bottom of sign
- Urban: 2.0-3.0 meters from road shoulder or curb to bottom of sign



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Restrictions

Signs must not:

- Resemble any Regulatory Road Signs or gives a command such as “stop, stop ahead, turn, caution,” etc., or any sign that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used traffic control device or sign
- Have a red or yellow background
- Be installed on County stop or yield signposts
- Display an intermittent, flashing or rotating light or lights
- Display commercial advertising
- Give any warning or direction to the use of the County roadway by any person

Signs and location must be approved by County prior to installation.

The owner shall be responsible for keeping the signs and posts maintained and in good condition.

Any unpermitted signs placed in County Right of Way will be removed.



Schedule B – Guidelines for Private Signs in County Right of Way -IC Series- Off Road Facilities

IC Type Signage: Off-road services signs indicate the availability of, and direction to, off-road services or recreational facilities.

Signage for facilities within the County follow either:

- Signage to conform to the Transportation Association of Canada's "Handbook of Recommended Information Sign Symbols for Canada." Or Alberta Transportation's "Sign Panel Catalogue, Class I Guide and Information Signs, sub-class IC Off Road Services Signs"; or
- For signage for facilities with a facility name these signs shall be White on blue with only the facility and shall be placed on a major roadway to direct people to the facility. Text should be 3" min. To have a High Intensity Prismatic, or better, sheeting for reflectivity, on 2mm thick aluminum sign panel.

The number of signs and placement is at the discretion of the Public Works Department.

Sign requirements

- Aluminum panels (.081") 2mm thickness, with rounded corners and conform to ASTM B209M sign sheet aluminum grade 5052-H38.
- Signs larger than 90 cm wide shall be on 10 mm (3/4") thick HDO sign board. 100/100 or 120/120 Hi-Density Plywood.
- Signs to meet minimum requirements of ASTM-D4956 Type III or IV High Intensity Retro-Reflective Sheeting. 3M High Intensity Prismatic 3930 sheeting or better preferred.
- Text should be a minimum of three (3) inches.
- Panels in multiples of 150mm
- Signs should be blue with white text.
- Be professionally fabricated to Alberta Transportation specifications.

Posts requirements:

- Permanent Signs
 - Wood to be 4 x 4" pressure treated minimum depth 1.5 meter below grade.
- Temporary Signs
 - U-Channel to have 3' anchor
 - Telespar (Perforated Square Tube) to have 3' penetrator anchors with square steel post
 - Concrete bases NOT allowed

Any sign larger than 120 cm wide must be mounted shall be on 2 posts



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Placement

- 150-250 meters from intersection or driveway approach in rural applications.
- 50-100 meters in urban applications, site specific location.

Lateral:

- Rural: 2.0-4.5 meters from road shoulder
- Urban: 0.3-2.0 meters from curb or road shoulder

Vertical:

- Rural: 1.5-2.5 meters from road shoulder to bottom of sign
- Urban: 2.0-3.0 meters from road shoulder or curb to bottom of sign

Restrictions:

Signs must not:

- Resemble any Regulatory Road Signs or gives a command such as “stop, stop ahead, turn, caution,” etc., or any sign that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used traffic control device or sign
- Have a red or yellow background
- Have logos or brands
- Be installed on County stop or yield signposts
- Display an intermittent, flashing or rotating light or lights
- Display commercial advertising
- Give any warning or direction to the use of the County roadway by any person

Signs and location must be approved by County prior to installation.

The owner shall be responsible for keeping the signs and posts maintained and in good condition.

Any unpermitted signs placed in County Right of Way will be removed.

Sample:

