

SECTION 7. TRAFFIC CONTROL

The use of all traffic control devices is based on standards from the most recent edition of the following publications:

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD);
AASHTO Roadside Design Guide;
AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Designs of Highways and Streets;
AASHTO Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs,
Luminaires, and Traffic Signals; and
American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) guidelines.

Before installing any sign posts, the Underground Utility Locating Center (One Call Concepts) shall be contacted at 1-800-424-5555 at least two (2) working days before the work is to be performed.

7.1 Temporary Traffic Control

Any work proposed within a County right-of-way that requires a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will not be approved until the Traffic Control Plan has been approved by the County. Any TCP that is submitted is subject to the following conditions:

1. The plan may be represented and referenced appropriately as a Typical Application defined in the most recent edition of the MUTCD or as a Typical Application developed by Missoula County as shown in Appendix B of these standards.
2. The Contractor is responsible for the set-up, maintenance and removal of the signage or devices.
3. The Contractor shall use signs and devices that are clear in meaning, are located appropriately and are clean and legible.
4. When the work is complete, the Contractor shall remove all traffic control signs and devices within forty-eight (48) hours. If the signs and devices are not removed within forty-eight (48) hours, the County will remove them and the permittee will be responsible for reimbursing the County for costs incurred.
5. No work may begin until all traffic control devices are in place. If work is being conducted without appropriate signage in place, the County will suspend the work and/or any appropriate permits until the proper traffic control devices are in place.

7.2 Permanent Traffic Control

When a proposed project involves removing, relocating, or replacing existing traffic control devices, or when installing new traffic control devices, a signage plan is required as part of the construction plan submittal. All permanently installed signs shall be installed according to the following regulations (see Standard Drawings MCSD-405 through MCSD-406 in Appendix A):

1. All proposed signage must be approved by the County prior to any installations. If the signage is not installed in compliance with the plans, the Developer or Contractor shall be required to reinstall, relocate or replace any deficient signage.
2. Street signs shall comply with the most recent edition of the MUTCD.
3. Street signs shall be visible from both directions, either with a double-sided sign mounted on top of the post or two single-sided signs mounted on each side of the post.
4. Streets that provide through access or connections to other streets shall be provided with street signs indicating the name of each of the intersecting streets in at least one quadrant of the intersection.
5. All signs in rural areas shall be located horizontally between six (6) and twelve (12) feet from the edges of the traveled way (edge of asphalt or edge of gravel surfacing). In the case of conflicts with underground utilities or other obstacles, the sign shall be placed further from the edge of the traveled way rather than nearer.
6. All signs installed adjacent to curb-and-gutter shall be located horizontally a minimum of two (2) feet from the back of the curb. Where curbside sidewalks block this location, the horizontal offset may be measured from the back edge of the sidewalk. In the case of conflicts with underground utilities or other obstacles, the sign shall be placed further from the edge of the traveled way rather than nearer.
7. Street signs shall be located vertically a minimum of nine (9) feet from the edge of the traveled way to the bottom edge of the sign.
8. In a rural area where no parking or pedestrian facilities exist or are planned, all regulatory and warning signs shall be located vertically a minimum of five (5) feet from the edge of the traveled way to the bottom edge of the sign.
9. In an urban area or in a rural area where parking or pedestrian facilities exist or are planned, all regulatory and warning signs shall be located vertically a minimum of seven (7) feet from the edge of the traveled way to the bottom edge of the sign.
10. Approved sign posts are: 4" – 5" round wood; 4" x 4" square wood; 2 3/8" round schedule 40 steel; 3 lb/ft steel U-channel; square steel post systems.
11. Any permanent base (such as concrete) shall not extend above the ground surface more than two (2) inches. Where permanent bases are used, an approved break-away system shall be installed.

7.3 Pavement Marking

Applications of all pavement markings are based on standards from the most recent edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the most recent edition of MDT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction. Prior to the application of any pavement marking, construction plans must be submitted to the County for approval.