



Traffic Guidelines Manual

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| ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer | | 2-2-4.5 |
| CHAPTER 2 | Signing | |
| SECTION 2 | Regulatory Signs | |
| SUBJECT 4.5 | STOP and YIELD Signs on Driveways and Private Roads | |

A. General

The Department uses regulatory and warning signs conservatively, as recommended in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices ([Section 2A.04](#)). This conservative use is important to retain the effective impact of signs on driver behaviors; used in excess, regulatory and warning signs tend to lose their effectiveness. There is the concern that a proliferation of unnecessary STOP or YIELD signs at driveways and private roads will lead to their disregard and could cause potential safety issues at locations where STOP or YIELD signs are necessary.

Often times the Department is requested to install and/or maintain STOP or YIELD signs for driveways and private roads. The Department is not obligated to provide STOP or YIELD signs for many of these locations, by basis of Wisconsin Statutes and the 2009 MUTCD.

B. Authority

The following Wisconsin State Statutes establish relevant rules of the road that drivers must obey without requiring a sign to be posted and describe the authority to place signs, and the [2009 MUTCD](#) Sections provide standards and guidance for installations of these signs.

Chapter 346, Rules of the Road

[s. 346.02](#) (7) Applicability of Provisions Requiring Signposting.

...Whenever a particular section does not state that signs are required, such section is effective even though no signs are erected or in place.

[s. 346.18](#) (4) Entering Highway from Alley or Non-highway Access.

The operator of a vehicle entering a highway from an alley or from a point of access other than another highway **shall** yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching...

[s. 346.18](#) (7) (b) Entering Alley or Driveway from Highway

The operator of any vehicle crossing a sidewalk...**shall** yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian...on the sidewalk.

[s.346.41](#) (1) Display of Unauthorized Signs and Signals Prohibited

No person **shall** place, maintain or display upon or in view of any highway...any unauthorized sign...which: (a) purports to be...an official traffic sign...

MUTCD, [1A.08](#), Authority for Placement of Traffic Control Devices.

Traffic control devices... **shall** be placed only as authorized by a public authority or the official having jurisdiction...

Any unauthorized sign placed on the highway right-of-way by a private organization or individual constitutes a public nuisance. All unofficial and nonessential traffic control devices, signs, or messages *should* be removed.

All regulatory traffic control devices **shall** be supported by laws, ordinances, or regulations.

These statutory provisions clarify that signs are not required in order to effect a requirement to comply with rules of the road, and it is apparent that a motorist is not required to stop before entering a street or highway from a driveway. STOP signs are not required in these situations. The following policy is established consistent with the stated objective of conservatively using regulatory signs to retain their effectiveness.

C. Policy

1. STOP signs or YIELD signs **shall not** be erected on state highway right-of-way at driveways, except as noted below:
 - a. STOP or YIELD signs **shall** be installed and maintained by WisDOT at driveways to state, county or municipal parks, and state forest, driveways on school grounds, and driveways to county institutions. These intersections often appear to be driveways, but are defined as highways under s.340.01(22),
 - b. If a private driveway operates and functions like a public street, the Regions *may* provide a temporary exception to allow a STOP or YIELD sign while working to encourage the local government to make the intersecting road a public roadway.
 - c. When there are demonstrated operational or safety issues resulting from a lack of a STOP or YIELD sign, and best efforts of the region to locate the STOP or YIELD sign off of the state highway right-of-way do not work, a permit *may* be granted by the Region to allow the STOP sign in the highway right-of-way. The permit *should* be documented using the standard application/permit to work on highway right-of-way (DT 1812 form). The owner of the STOP or YIELD sign **shall** be responsible for the installation and long-term maintenance of the sign.

2. For pre-existing STOP or YIELD signs installed at driveway connections to state highways, not consistent with this policy and located in the right of way of the state highway, the Region *should* remove the sign from the right of way. Before removal, make every effort to work with the driveway owner, as opportunities permit, to relocate privately owned STOP or YIELD signs off of the state highway right-of-way. An ideal time for working with property owners for relocation of STOP or YIELD signs would be during an improvement project or if any other work is being performed on the right-of-way.
3. STOP or YIELD signs for private driveways connecting to state highways *should* be located off the state highway-right-of-way in a location that is reasonably close to the ideal stopping point. The 2009 MUTCD, Section 2A.16 states that a STOP sign *may* be located a maximum of 50 feet from the mainline roadway edgeline.
4. When privately owned STOP or YIELD signs are allowed in the highway right-of-way, the proper size STOP or YIELD sign for that particular state trunk highway **shall** be used, in accordance with TGM 2-2-5. In addition, the owner of the private road or driveway **shall** install STOP or YIELD in accordance with the 2009 MUTCD, Sections 2B.04, 2B.05, 2B.06, 2A.18, 2A.19 and 6F.05.