



## Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-4-48.1
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 4	Guide Signs - Conventional
SUBJECT 48.1	Neighborhood Watch Signing

### A. Purpose

[Wisconsin State Statute 66.0429](#) allows cities or villages to place Neighborhood Watch signs upon the highway right-of-way within its corporate limits. Per Statute, the program is required to be authorized by the law enforcement agency of the city or village and must be approved by the city council or village board. Furthermore, State Statute 66.0429 (2) states that the sign must be of a uniform design approved by the Department of Transportation. Often times the Department is requested to provide a detail of the official sign.

Communities that have adopted such a program often request signing on the state highway system. The Department controls traffic signs on highways maintained by the state. Local governments do not have the authority to erect signs on those highways except when written permission is provided by the Department.

### B. Definitions

Freeways are defined as divided arterial highway facilities that have full controlled access, by means of grade separation at interchanges only.

Expressways are defined as divided arterial highway facilities that have partial control of access and generally with grade separations at major intersections.

Conventional Highways are defined as divided or undivided roadway facilities that have limited access with no grade separations at intersections. These highways *may* be two lane or multilane facilities.

### B. Policy

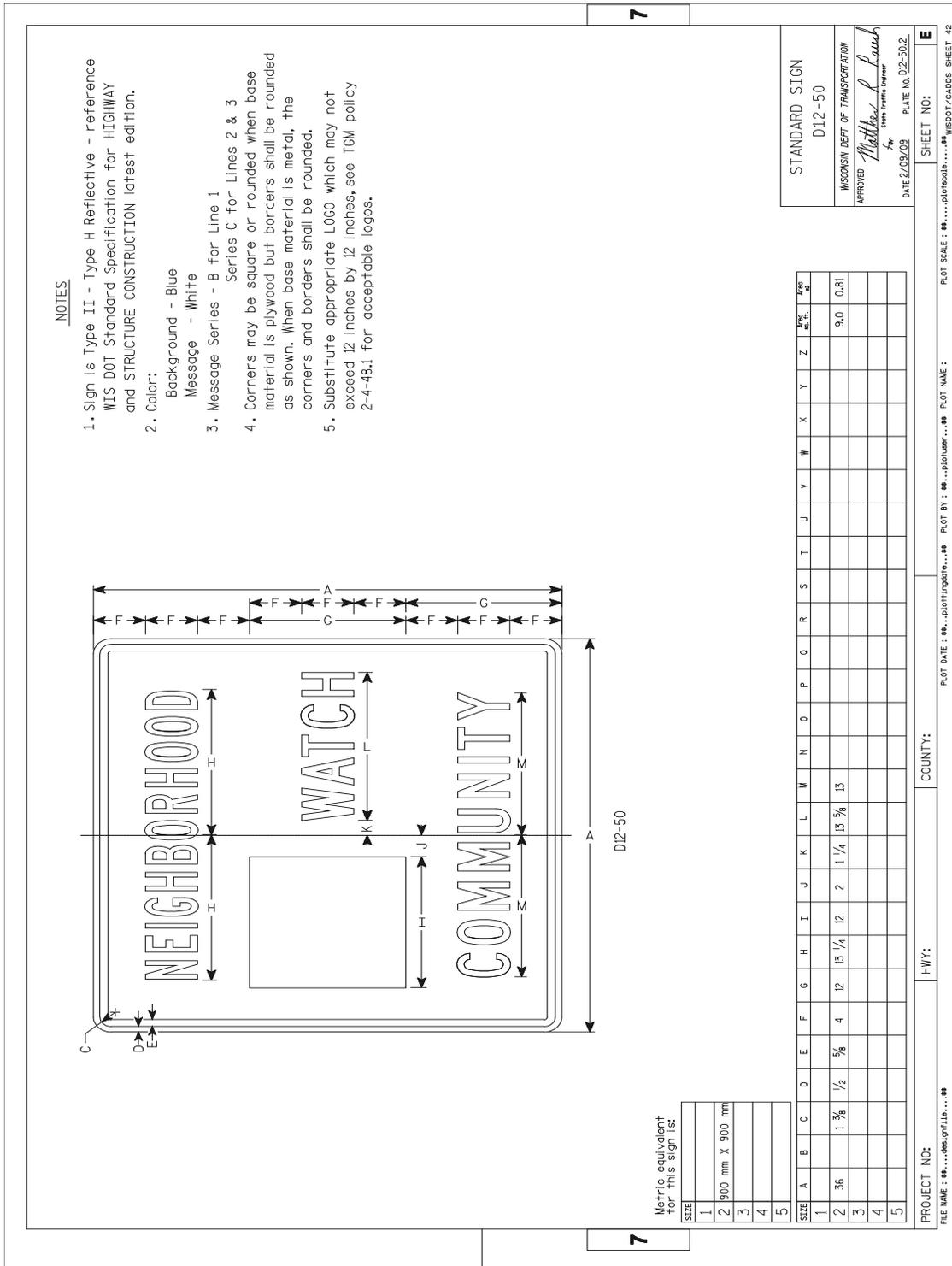
The Department *may* permit local governments to place signs on highways under WisDOT jurisdiction subject to the requirements included here:

1. The city or village must have a neighborhood watch program in place that is authorized by the law enforcement agency of the city or village and approved by the

city council or village board.

2. Requests for a permit to allow these signs must be in writing to the WisDOT Regional Office and *should* contain the following information:
  - locations where signs are to be installed, including State highway route number and distance to the nearest public roadway intersection
  - sign offset (distance from edge of travel lane) and type of post to be used
  - assurance that sign will be free standing (not attached to other signs)
  - documentation of city or village program.
3. The local government **shall** be responsible for supplying, installing, and maintaining the signs in conformance with the permit. The local government **shall** furnish their identification sticker on the sign.
4. The *recommended* sign for cities and villages is the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY sign (D12-50) (See Figure 1). There is a space for a 12" x 12" logo.
5. Acceptable logo designs are (See Figure 2):
  - a. "Eye" style logo.
  - b. Criminal logo.
6. There is no sunset date for signs already installed that do not conform to this policy. Rather, communities are encouraged to follow this consistent sign design.
7. The city or village must obtain the approval of the appropriate Regional office for location(s) of the signs(s).
8. Signs are only allowed at the corporate limits upon entering a community.
9. Per intent of State Statute 60.23 (17m) neighborhood watch signs **shall not** be allowed for townships on the state highway system. They *may* be placed on township maintained roadways and county roadways, if approved by the County Board.
10. For signs off the State Highway System, per State Statute 66.0429, WisDOT is required to approve the sign design.
11. Neighborhood Watch signs **shall not** be allowed on freeways, including ramps and 65 mph expressways.
12. Signs will be removed if official Neighborhood Watch program for the community no longer exists.

**FIGURE 1**



**FIGURE 2**  
**(Acceptable Logo Designs)**

