



## Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-15-16
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 15	Comprehensive Guiding Policies
SUBJECT 16	ATV Route Signing

### A. Purpose

[Section 23.33\(1\)\(c\)](#) Wisconsin Statute defines an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) route as a highway or sidewalk designated for use by ATV operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction as authorized under this section. In addition, [s. 23.33\(1\)\(am\)\(3\)](#) allows ATV operation on non-interstate highway bridges 1,000 feet in length or less by ordinance of the county and the municipality in which the bridge is located, regardless of jurisdiction.

At some locations on state trunk highway right of way, local agencies *may* erect signing for the purpose of directing and controlling ATV trail operations. This is permissible unless there is some problem generated by the existence of ATVs at specific locations. Signing for ATV trails and routes is described in [Administrative Code NR 64.12](#) and also described with typical applications illustrated in WDNR's "[Trail Signing Handbook](#)", [2012](#). A copy of this book *should* be kept in each traffic section. This policy will clarify that handbook with regards to ATV use on WisDOT maintained highways.

### B. Definitions:

ATV crossing: A location where an ATV route or trail crosses, but does not run along, a highway.

ATV route: Any roadway or sidewalk properly designated for use by ATV operations per s. 23.33.

ATV trail: A marked corridor on public property or on private lands subject to public easement or lease, designated for use by all-terrain vehicle operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction, but excluding roadways of highways except those roadways that are seasonally not maintained for motor vehicle traffic.

### C. Policy:

#### ATV crossing warning signs:

1. ATV crossing warning signs ([W11-50](#)) are shown routinely in the WDNR Trail Signing Handbook. On state maintained highways, these signs **shall** only be installed by WisDOT, and only where warranted due to sight conditions, per the table in Section 2C.46 of the [2011 Wisconsin MUTCD](#).
2. WisDOT will assume the installation and maintenance costs for any ATV Trail crossing warning signs installed on the state highway system.

#### ATV Route guide signs and arrows:

The following policy criteria **shall** be used when ATV Route guide signs are requested from municipalities:

1. ATV Route signs ([D11-10](#)) **shall** be installed immediately downstream from where an ATV Route turns onto a State or US Highway. From a safety standpoint, it is desirable to keep ATVs on the shoulder; however, this *may* cause shoulder rutting issues, especially in locations where ATVs will tend to straddle the paved shoulder/gravel shoulder transition. For this reason, it *may* be desirable to supplement the initial D11-10 signs with “STAY ON PAVEMENT” (R4-55) or “STAY ON SHOULDER” (R4-55-S) signs, mounted directly below the D11-10 sign. Region maintenance *should* be consulted to determine if these signs are necessary. A second D11-10 sign **shall** be installed where the ATV Route turns off of the State or US Highway. This sign **shall** be supplemented with an appropriate [M7 series arrow](#).
2. It should be noted that the WDNR Trail Signing Handbook shows a 6” x 12” “directional arrow” above a 6” x 6” ATV symbol sign at locations where the ATV route ends at an ATV trail. This combination of sign **shall not** be installed along ATV routes on State or US Highways. This “directional arrow” sign mimics the design of standard large one-direction (night) arrows. As ATV users will be using some or all of the traffic lane, these signs will be installed at the same offset and mounting height as other traffic signs. This could lead to motorist confusion. ATV routes on State or US Highways ending at ATV trails **shall** utilize the D11-10/M7 sign combinations.
3. The county or local municipality **shall** be required to obtain a permit (see [TGM 2-15-3](#) page 29) for these signs from the WisDOT Region Traffic Engineer. The written request *should* contain:
  - A copy of both the municipal and county ordinances
  - A map showing the ATV Route

The Region Traffic Engineer *should* contact Bureau of Highway Maintenance (BHM), State ROW Permits Engineer, to ensure that the county and municipal ordinances have been reviewed by WisDOT and WDNR. Signs **shall not** be

erected until the ordinances are legally in effect. The current BHM contact is [Bob Fasick](#), (608) 266-3438.

4. WisDOT will set up a Professional and Technical Project ID to charge costs to and will coordinate manufacture and installation of the signs. All costs for the installation and maintenance of ATV Route signs **shall** be billed to the county or local municipality. For county requested signs, the Sales to Others process *may* be utilized in lieu of the P&T process.
5. All ATV Route signs, auxiliary arrows and plaques, and ATV crossing signs on State or US Highways **shall** be installed on WisDOT standard breakaway supports. Mounting height and offset **shall** follow [sign plate A4-3](#).

Other comments on the WDNR Trail Signing Handbook:

1. Any and all responsibility for signing along trail, off of the state highway, is local, including installation and maintenance.
2. Regarding illustrations in the book (figures on pages 21 through 26 and page 32):
  - a. Warning signs on the trail when visible from the highway *should* be the minimum size specified.
  - b. Orange markers on the right-of-way would usually be unnecessary except to mark a turn.
  - c. STOP signs are shown too close to the highway. They *should* be back of the snowplowing range, at least 20' from the pavement and desirably more.
  - d. STOP signs *should* be parallel to the highway, and the trail approaching the highway *should* be aligned to be as near to a right angle as possible.
3. On page 14 of the handbook: If requested WisDOT will install and maintain guide signs for trail head parking lots. The signs *should* contain the word "Parking".
4. Trail sign posts on the right of way installed by local agencies **shall** meet the same small support safety standards as those erected by WisDOT.
5. Trail signs **shall not** be attached to any of WisDOT's signposts.

**D. Additional Information**

BHM has developed a comprehensive policy on ATV routes and Trails that is available at [HMM 09-10-11](#).