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TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM NO. 1803

Jurisdiction and Maintenance of Signs in Cities and Counties

(This memorandum is intended to provide general operating guidance for TDOT staff.)

Inside of incorporated municipalities the municipality has sole jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility for all highway signs along all local roads and all regulatory and warning signs on conventional state routes per T.C.A. § 54-5-202. Route marker assemblies, destination signs, and distance signs will be maintained by TDOT per T.C.A. 54-5-201 and TDOT Rule 1680-03-02, SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR GUIDE SIGNS ON FREEWAYS, EXPRESSWAYS AND CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS.

Along conventional state routes inside of incorporated municipalities, guide signs are a shared jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility. Criteria for the installation of guide signs by TDOT are set forth in TDOT Rule 1680-03-02, SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR GUIDE SIGNS ON FREEWAYS, EXPRESSWAYS AND CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS.

Inside of counties the county has sole jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility for all signing along local county roads. TDOT has sole jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility for all signing along all state routes in the county. *(Note: There may be special exceptions to this general guidance in limited counties i.e. Trail of Tears signs. Please contact TDOT's State Traffic Engineer for a list of known exceptions).*

For signs along local roads intersecting state highways, all regulatory and warning signs shall be maintained by the local government. *Per MUTCD: Section 1A.07. Responsibility for Traffic Control Devices Standard: The responsibility for the design, placement, operation, maintenance, and uniformity of traffic control devices shall rest with the public agency or the official having jurisdiction.*

LED and flashing beacon type warning signs along conventional state route in counties are considered an option only when other standard warning signs have proven ineffective and there is an established crash history above the state wide average. By agreement, all hardwired signs and related utility costs are the responsibility of the county. TDOT will maintain all non-hardwired (solar and battery) type powered systems.

On controlled access facilities TDOT has sole jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility for all signing along all controlled access freeways and expressways and their related ramps that are designated state routes or interstates.

Signs fabricated by TDOT that are to be maintained by TDOT shall have a standard TDOT fabrication decal applied.

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PBF:JO:jvs
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