

DATE: November 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Installation and Maintenance Responsibilities for Traffic Control Devices

TO: District Executives

FROM: Richard N. Roman, P.E., Director *Richard N. Roman /s/*
 Bureau of Maintenance and Operations

This Strike-off Letter (SOL) provides clarification on the installation and maintenance responsibilities for traffic control devices, specifically traffic signs and pavement markings. Title 67 Pa. Code Chapter 212.5 identifies the traffic signs and pavement markings that local authorities are responsible for installing and maintaining on state and local roads with or without Department approval. Publication 648, *PennDOT Pavement Marking Handbook*, also provides guidance in Section 4.4 about pavement markings normally applied by the Department and those that are typically installed by local municipalities. This SOL does not change or override the requirements in the Pa. Code or any publications.

The attached Table 1 outlines the responsibilities for traffic control devices for State-designated conventional highways. For State-designated expressways and freeways, local authorities may not install, revise or remove traffic-control devices on the expressway or freeway or at an intersection with an expressway or freeway without written Department approval, unless noted otherwise in Chapter 212.

The attached Tables 2 and 3 outline responsibilities for traffic control devices on local highways and local highway approaches to intersections with State-designated highways respectively.

The attached Table 4 provides clarification on items not addressed in Chapter 212 or other Department publications.

Publication 648, *PennDOT Pavement Marking Handbook*, also provides further guidance in Section 4.4 about the pavement marking normally applied by the Department and those that are typically installed by local municipalities. The guidance is as follows:

Types of pavement markings normally applied by the Department	Types of pavement markings normally <u>not</u> applied by the Department
Center lines	Pedestrian crosswalks
Lane lines	School crosswalks
Edge lines	School and other warning legends
Dotted lines	Stop bars
Auxiliary lane lines (elephant tracks)	Parking stalls
Directional markings (arrows, legends)	Curbs
Railroad crossings	VASCAR lines
Hatching	Legends included as part of an approved traffic signal permit
S.P.A.R.E. Lines (State Police Aerial Reconnaissance Enforcement)	
Slow curve pavement markings (SCPM)	

494-17-05
November 2, 2017
Page 2

Under certain circumstances, the Department at its discretion may agree to install pavement markings and/or traffic signs that are typically a local municipality's responsibility. These arrangements are made directly between the municipality and the local Engineering District.

Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) and Logo signs are the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Tourism Signing Trust. For any issues regarding these signs, the Trust shall be contacted (palogo.org).

Should you have any questions, please contact Justin Smith, P.E., Manager, Pavement Markings, Sign Standards and Specifications Unit at 717-705-1443 or jussmith@pa.gov.

Attachments

4940/RJP/hmq

cc: Assistant District Executives-Maintenance
Louis Belmonte, Assistant District Executive-Services, District 6
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TABLE 1 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON STATE DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS - CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS

Traffic Control Device	State Designated Conventional Highway		
	Responsible Authority	Department Approval Required	Regulation Cite (67 Pa. Code §212.5)
Revision or removal of traffic control device installed by the Department or by a contractor for the Department	Local Authority or Department as detailed below	Yes	(b)(1)(i)
<i>Installation, revision, removal, maintenance, operation of traffic control devices within cities of first and second class (city)</i>			
Traffic control devices as required in agreement between city and the Department	City	Agreement	(b)(1)(ii)(A)
Traffic signals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City without municipal traffic engineering certification in accordance with Chapter 205 (relating to municipal traffic engineering certification) • City with municipal traffic engineering certification 	City	Yes	(b)(1)(ii)(B)
	City	No	
All Other Traffic Control Devices	City	No	(b)(1)(ii)
<i>Installation, revision, removal, maintenance, and operation of traffic control devices within local municipalities other than cities of the first and second class</i>			
Regulatory Signs			
Pedestrian Group Signs (R9 Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(D)
Railroad			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railroad Crossbuck Sign (R15-1), • Track Sign (R15-2), Emergency Notification Sign (I-13a), • Other signs, gates, or lights within railroad company's ROW 	Railroad Company Railroad Company Railroad Company	Yes Yes Yes	(b)(1)(v)(I)
Snowmobile Road Closed to All Other Vehicles Sign (R11-11)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(G)
Speed Limit Signs (R2-1), 35 mph or less, <i>except</i>	Local Authority	Yes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hazardous grade speed limit signs</i> • <i>Bridge speed limit signs</i> • <i>Department rest areas speed limit signs</i> • <i>Department welcome center speed limit signs</i> • <i>Department weigh station speed limit signs</i> 	Department Department Department Department Department	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	(b)(1)(v)(B)
Stopping, Standing, or Parking Signs (R7 and R8 series)	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(A)
Street Closed (R11-10)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(F)
Traffic Signal Group Signs (R10 Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(E)

TABLE 1 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON STATE DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS - CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS (CONTINUED)

Traffic Control Device	State Designated Conventional Highway		
	Responsible Authority	Department Approval Required	Regulation Cite (67 Pa. Code §212.5)
Weigh Stations not owned or operated by the Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Truck Must Enter Weigh Station (R13-1) • Weigh Station signs (D8 Series) 	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(H)
Warning Signs			
Children Group Series (W15 Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(L)
Entrance and Crossing Signs (W11 Series) <i>except</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Deer Crossing (W11-3),</i> • <i>Elk Crossing (W11-20),</i> • <i>Horsedrawn Vehicle (W11-14),</i> • <i>Left Turns and Cross Traffic Sign (W11-105),</i> • <i>Left Turns (W11-106),</i> • <i>Watch for Turns Sign (W11-107)</i> 	Local Authority Department Department Department Department Department Department	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	(b)(1)(v)(K)
Signal Ahead Sign (W3-3)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(J)
Guide Signs			
Bicycle Route Sign (D11-1)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(O)
Parking Area Sign (D4-1)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(M)
Street Name Signs (D3 Series)	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(B)
Telephone Directional Signs (D9-1)	Local Authority, Installation by telephone company	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(N)
General Information Signs			
Snowmobile and All Terrain Vehicle Group Signs (I12 Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(R)
Traffic Signal Speed Sign (I1-1)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(P)
Trail Group Sign (I4 Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(Q)
School Signs			
School signs (S Series)	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(S)
School Zone Speed Limits	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(S)
Pavement Markings			
Crosswalk pavement markings at intersections	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(C)
Crosswalk pavement markings at midblock locations	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(T)
Curb markings	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(E)
On-street parking - parallel parking and existing angle parking stall markings	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(D)
On-street parking – creation of new angle parking pavement markings	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(iv)(D)

TABLE 1 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON STATE DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS - CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS (CONTINUED)

Traffic Control Device	State Designated Conventional Highway		
	Responsible Authority	Department Approval Required	Regulation Cite (67 Pa. Code §212.5)
Stop and Yield Line markings at intersections	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(C)
Traffic Signals and Traffic Signaling Devices			
Traffic Signals, and all associated signs and markings included on the Department-approved traffic signal plan	Local Authority	Yes	(b)(1)(v)(A)
All Other Traffic Control Devices	Department	Yes	(b)(1)(iii)
Parking Meters	Local Authority	No	(b)(1)(iv)(F)

TABLE 2 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON LOCAL HIGHWAYS

Traffic Control Device	Local Highway		
	Responsible Authority	Department Approval Required¹	Regulation Cite (67 Pa. Code §212.5)
School Zone Speed Limits and Associated Signs	Local Authority	Yes	(c)(1)
Revising or removing a traffic-control device installed in accordance with an agreement between the local authorities and the Department.	Local Authority	Yes	(c)(2)
All Other Traffic Control Devices	Local Authority	No	(c)

¹ Department approval is not required for cities of first and second class or other local authorities that have municipal traffic engineering certification in accordance with Chapter 205.

TABLE 3 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON LOCAL HIGHWAY APPROACHES TO INTERSECTIONS WITH STATE-DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS

Traffic Control Device	Local Highway Approaches to Intersections with State Designated Highway		
	Responsible Authority	Department Approval Required ¹	Regulation Cite (67 Pa. Code §212.5)
New intersections – traffic control devices as required by an approved highway occupancy permit (HOP) issued in accordance with Chapter 441 (relating to access to and occupancy of highways by driveways and local roads)	Installation by HOP Permittee	Yes	(d)(2)
Existing intersections – traffic control devices as required to control traffic on the local highway approaches, including replacement or repair of missing, damaged, blocked or outdated devices in need of upgrade.	Local Authority or HOP Permittee	Yes	(d)(3)
Stop Signs (R1-1) and Yield Signs (R1-2)	Local Authority	Yes	(d)(3)(i)(A)
Stop Ahead Signs (W3-1) and Yield Ahead Signs (W3-2)	Local Authority, including determining need for	No	(d)(3)(i)(A)
Stop and Yield Line markings	Local Authority	Yes	(d)(5)
Traffic Signals and Traffic Signaling Devices	See Table 1		
Traffic restriction, prohibitions or lane control signs, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Right Turn Signs (R3-1) • No Left Turn Signs (R3-2) • No Turns Signs (R3-3) • Left Turn Signs (R3-5) • Left Lane Must Turn Left Signs (R3-7L) • One-Way Signs (R6 Series) 	Local Authority	Yes	(d)(3)(i)(C)
All Other Traffic Control Devices	Local Authority	No	(d)

¹The Department is responsible for approving the traffic control at intersections of local highways and State designated highways, including the local highway approaches.

TABLE 4 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN 67 PA. CODE §212.5 OR OTHER PENNDOT PUBLICATIONS

Traffic Control Device	Responsible Authority
Bicycle and pedestrian pavement markings on state designated highway	Local Authority unless other agreement with Department
Dotted line pavement markings separating dual turning lanes within signalized intersections on state designated highways	Local Authority unless other agreement with Department
Pavement markings for left turn standby lane on state designated highway for local road at unsignalized intersection	Local Authority unless other agreement with Department
Longitudinal lines within signalized intersections	Local Authority unless other agreement with Department
Intersection safety initiative signing and pavement markings	Department
Roundabout permit pavement markings and signing	Local Authority (Permittee)
Speed cushions, speed humps and speed tables including associated pavement markings and signing	Department on state designated highways unless other agreement with the Local Authority
Vertical clearance signing	Department on state designated highways passing under structures and Local Authority on local highways passing under structures
Weight limit and truck detour signing on local highways	Local Authority with Department approval