

DO NOT ENTER SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs Do Not Enter signs, which are regulatory signs, to prohibit vehicles from entering a restricted roadway. These signs can also be installed to eliminate a traffic movement on a minor street or where a traffic engineering investigation indicates an unusual or hazardous condition.

Rationale:

When complied with, Do Not Enter signs are an effective tool in minimizing inappropriate traffic circulation in neighborhoods and other local traffic areas. The petitioner should be reminded that when Do Not Enter signs are used to discourage through traffic on a residential street they are difficult to enforce and their compliance is based strictly on the motoring public.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant the sign(s). If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If conditions do not warrant signing the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services.

NO U-TURN SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs No U-Turn signs, which are regulatory signs, to prohibit vehicles from making turns which may disrupt the flow for on-coming traffic, thereby increasing danger to all motorists.

Rationale:

When complied with, No U-Turn signs are an effective tool in minimizing inappropriate traffic circulation in neighborhoods and other local traffic areas. The petitioner should be reminded that when No U-Turn signs are used to discourage through traffic on a residential street they are difficult to enforce and their compliance is based strictly on the motoring public.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant the sign(s). If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If conditions do not warrant signing the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services.

REGULATORY SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs Regulatory Speed Limit signs, which are regulatory signs. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Commissioner of Transportation sets regulatory speed limits for the state based on engineering and traffic investigations. These signs are installed to remind the motoring public of the most common statutory speeds.

Whether the speed limit is posted or not, drivers are required to reduce speed below these values for poor weather conditions, curves, hills, potential hazards, such as pedestrians, and when approaching or passing emergency vehicles with emergency lights flashing.

Rationale:

The regulatory speed limit is 30 miles per hour on residential roadways in the City of Cottage Grove unless posted otherwise, per Minnesota Statute 169.14.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant the sign(s). If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If conditions do not warrant signing, the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services.

STOP SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs Stop signs, which are regulatory signs. Stop signs are not used as a means to slow traffic. Rather, stop signs are used to assign right-of-way at intersections.

Rationale:

Requesters may ask for stop sign(s) due to an accident that recently occurred. However, there can be many reasons for accidents, including driver error, decreased visibility, etc. Faulty traffic control is just one reason. In addition, studies show that drivers have a tendency to speed up between stop signs to make up for lost time, which may result in more accidents.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant stop signs. If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If conditions do not warrant signing the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services.

YIELD SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs Yield signs, which are regulatory signs. Yield signs are not used for traffic control at conventional intersections. Their use is reserved only for special locations.

Rationale:

The limited use of yield signs is for safety reasons. Studies of yield signs vs. stop signs vs. no control in similar residential areas that compared intersection control related accidents for the three areas show that the accident rate for intersections with yield signs was six times higher than intersections with stop sign control. Intersections with yield signs had an accident rate twice as high as intersections with no control at all.

The reason for the high accident rate at yield controlled intersections might be in part that drivers generally react to a stop sign with their foot on or near the brake pedal preparing to stop. Their reaction to a yield sign seems to be to have their foot on or near the gas pedal preparing to accelerate. Thus, yield signs should be reserved for locations such as freeway entrance ramps.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant the sign(s). If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If conditions do not warrant signing the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services.

ADVISORY SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Advisory speed limit signs are warning signs. They are installed, where appropriate, to warn motorists that the maximum safe speed for conditions is less than the statutory speed limit for that segment of roadway.

Rationale:

The statutory speed limit on residential roadways in the City of Cottage Grove and on other streets where no signs are posted is 30 miles per hour per Minnesota Statute 169.14. Some collector and arterial roadways may have a higher speed limit and are posted accordingly. Occasionally conditions such as curves in the roadway make it advisable for the motorist to travel at a speed less than the statutory limit, and in those locations an advisory speed limit sign may be installed.

Advisory speed limit signs supplement a warning sign. In addition, they are not enforceable, only informational, and have black lettering on a yellow background. Conventional, enforceable speed limit signs have black lettering on a white background.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine the recommended safe speed for conditions. If that speed is less than the statutory speed limit, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. If that speed meets or exceeds the statutory speed limit, safe speed conditions, and the sign is installed through the appeals process, the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services and the sign per the schedule of fees.

PLAYGROUND, PARK, and TRAIL SIGNS

Playground signs, Park signs, and Trail signs are warning signs used where a playground, park, or trail is adjacent to an arterial street. They may also be used on a minor street where a traffic engineering investigation indicates an unusual or hazardous condition.

Rationale:

This sign is intended to warn motorists of a potential hazardous condition that may call for a reduction in speed. It is not intended to regulate speed.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. Afterwards, accepted traffic engineering procedures and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used to determine if conditions warrant the sign(s). If conditions warrant signing, appropriate signs are then installed and maintained by the Public Works department, and the City will pay for the engineering services. The Playground sign or Park sign shall generally be installed approximately 150 feet in advance of the playground or park block. Unique conditions may dictate special sign locations. When a playground is used in conjunction with a school, the "school" sign shall take precedence, and no "Playground" signs shall be placed. If conditions do not warrant signing and the sign is installed through the appeals process, the requestor will be invoiced for the engineering services and the sign per the schedule of fees.

SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

The school pedestrian crossing signs are warning signs intended for use at established crossings including signalized locations used by pupils going to and from school, except that at crossings controlled by stop signs where the sign should be omitted. Only crossings adjacent to schools and those on established school pedestrian routes shall be signed.

Whenever a school pedestrian sign is used, a school advance crossing sign must also be installed.

The school crossing advance sign may be used in advance of school crossings where the school crossing location sign is absent.

Should a request from the school district exceed compliance standards, as stated in the current Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, it will be the responsibility of Public School District #833 to absorb the cost of requested traffic devices and controls.

Rationale:

These signs are intended to warn motorists of a potential pedestrian/motorist conflict that may call for a reduction in speed. They are not intended to regulate speed.

Procedure:

Requests for signs related to school pedestrian crossings will be considered the jurisdiction of Public School District #833. The Engineering department will forward requests to School District #833 and react to their recommendations based upon their conformity to federally recommended guidelines.

STREET NAME SIGNS

The City of Cottage Grove installs and maintains Street Name signs, which are directional signs. The signs are installed at intersections to serve as navigational and safety devices.

Posts are installed for the street name sign, or the street name signs may be mounted on street light posts or overhead traffic signals mast arms. On residential intersections, a post with two signs identifying the cross streets is mounted on one of the quadrants. On collector or arterial streets two posts mounted on diagonally opposite corners may exist.

Rationale:

The signs contain the street name as well as the approximate street/postal address number for the segment of roadway.

Procedure:

Signs will be replaced by the City when a street name is changed or the sign is vandalized.

CRIME WATCH SIGNS

Crime Watch signs are special purpose signs that can be installed upon citizen request and completion of petition process. Signs will be limited to local residential streets with generally 500 vehicles per day or less. Only one sign, per direction, per block will be installed.

Rationale:

Crime Watch signs are not recommended. Placement of signs such as Crime Watch on collector and arterial roadways may lead to sign clutter and distract from the effectiveness of important regulatory signs. They shall therefore only be allowed on low volume roadways.

Procedure:

Once a sign request is received, an educational brochure may be distributed to the requester. The City Engineer or representative will review the request and determine if the street is eligible by contacting the Public Safety commission. If eligible, the Engineering department will contact the requesting party and provide information, regarding the petition process. After receiving the written approval of the property owner(s) abutting the location of the sign, and payment in accordance with the City's fee schedule, the Engineering department will determine the location of the Crime Watch signs. Signs will generally be located near the beginning of the block.

DEAF CHILD / BLIND CHILD SIGNS

Deaf Child and / or Blind Child signs are not permitted signs in Cottage Grove and will not be installed on residential streets; rather the City will focus efforts on educating residents and the motoring public and Council Members on the rationale behind this decision.

Rationale:

Deaf Child signs and signs like these are warning signs, but may also be considered Special Purpose signs, or even Not Permitted signs. This is because they benefit only a small number of people (Special Purpose) and they have little or no effect on traffic volumes, traffic speeds, or safety (Not Permitted).

The City has adopted the understanding which states that Deaf Child and / or Blind Child signs are Not Permitted because the City does not wish to create a false sense of security for the child or the child's parents, despite the good intentions of the requester. Furthermore, a Deaf Child area sign cannot guarantee improvements in traffic safety, even though the hope is that the sign would remind the neighborhood motorists that a deaf child may be present.

Procedure:

Once a request for this type of sign is received, a representative of the Engineering department will send a letter explaining the decision to not install the sign and provide information regarding the appeals process.

WATCH FOR CHILDREN SIGNS

Watch for Children and Slow Children and other such signs are not permitted in Cottage Grove and will not be installed on residential streets, rather the City will focus efforts on educating residents and the motoring public and Council Members on the rationale behind this decision.

Rationale:

Watch for Children signs and signs like these are Warning signs, but may also be considered Special Purpose signs, or even Not Permitted signs. This is because they benefit only a small number of people (Special Purpose) and they have little or no effect on traffic volumes, traffic speeds, or safety (Not Permitted).

The City has adopted the understanding which states that Watch for Children and other such signs are Not Permitted because the City does not wish to create a false sense of security for the child or the child's parents, despite the good intentions of the requester. Furthermore, a Watch for Children area sign cannot guarantee improvements in traffic safety, even though the hope is that the sign would remind the neighborhood motorists that children may be present.

Procedure:

Once a request for this type of sign is received, a representative of the Engineering department will send a letter explaining the decision to not install the sign and provide information regarding the appeals process.