



# Roadway Signing and Pavement Marking Policy

(Adopted by the County Board Dec. 2011)

Roadway signage and pavement markings are essential for routine travel and safety of the traveling public. The following Policy has been established to provide guidelines for the County Highway Department to follow, to provide such services in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns.

## Signage

The Beltrami County Highway Department is committed to provide adequate signage on all County roadways. With the volume of roadways that the Department maintains, it is not financially feasible to provide all signs on all roadways. Signs that are deemed to be required on a roadway should be placed and maintained in accordance with the “Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (Mn/MUTCD) that was current at the time that the sign was installed. Signs that are considered guidance or optional should not be placed or maintained unless decided otherwise based on engineering judgment.

All new signs that are placed or replaced within Beltrami County right-of-way should be constructed with High Intensity Prismatic grade facing or higher, depending on the Departments budget.

## Sign Maintenance

1. Sign Management – Beltrami County will use a combination of Expected Sign Life and Visual Inspection as management methods. All signs that are required should be placed on a recurring maintenance schedule and should be replaced based on the expected life. The Department should also conduct periodic nighttime reflectivity observations of all signs within the right-of-way in order to monitor the performance of the signs reflective qualities.
2. In place signs that are not required, which are considered guidance or optional, will not be replaced or maintained unless decided otherwise based on engineering judgment.
3. Traffic Sign Field Inventory - The Department should develop and maintain a field inventory of all signs located within the right-of-way of all County roadways. This record of signage is vital to sign management practices and to allow budgeting costs to be determined for changes in sign maintenance policy. The information included in this inventory should include but not be limited to type and size of sign, type of reflective coating, location of the sign, and date that the sign was installed.
4. Missing or Damaged Signs – It is the counties responsibility to replace all missing or damaged signs on the County roadway system. Signs can become missing and/or damaged due to being stolen, involved in an accident or vandalized as well as becoming dysfunctional due to typical aging and/or weathering processes. When the sign is considered vital to the safety of the motoring public (e.g. stop sign at an all way stop

intersection), the sign will be replaced as soon as practical once the problem has been identified. However, County sign staff is not directly on-call after normal working hours therefore emergency situations will be handled thru normal law enforcement protocols. If the sign is of a type that is not directly vital to maintaining the safety of the motoring public but is important to the safe and efficient use of the roadway system (e.g. speed limit signs, warning signs, stop sign on low volume approach road, etc.) it will be replaced as soon as possible during normal Department working hours. If the sign is of a type that its existence is not important to the general safety of the motoring public (e.g. route markers, guide signs, adopt-a-highway signs etc.) it will be replaced as soon as practical within the Department's normal operations. All sign maintenance operations will be performed at the discretion of the Engineer and will be subject to Department budget and personnel constraints.

## **Striping**

The Beltrami County Highway Department is committed to providing and maintaining roadway markings and striping on all paved county roadways. Due to the volume of paved roadways and budget constraints, it is not financially feasible for the Department to re-stripe all of the roadways on an annual basis.

## **Striping Maintenance**

Guidance for re-striping schedule is as follows:

1. All urban streets will be evaluated and restriped based on engineering judgment.
2. Rural routes shall be evaluated and restriped based on traffic counts and engineering judgment. Routes with higher traffic counts should be restriped annually.