



WARNING SIGN POLICY

1.00 **POLICY PURPOSE**

This Policy aides in addressing requests and posting of warning traffic signs in the City right-of-way that warn the traveling public of various issues. There are some warning signs that are needed and placed per engineering standards and practices. Some signs are placed at the request of the public to alert drivers for special and unique hazards.

Section 2C.02 of the Wisconsin Manual on Uniform and Traffic Control Devices states that the usage of warning signs should be kept to a minimum, as the unnecessary use of warning signs tends to breed disregard for all signs. The over usage of signs may result in information overload for the motorist, which may negatively impact safety.

2.00 **ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFECTED**

All traveling public.

3.00 **REFERENCES**

- 3.01 Manual on Uniform and Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)- US Federal Highway Administration, latest edition, Chapter 2C
- 3.02 Wisconsin Manual on Uniform and Traffic Control Devices (WisMUTCD), latest edition, Chapter 2C
- 3.03 Wisconsin Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering, Operation & Safety Manual: Chapter 2 Signing- Section 3 Warnings; and Chapter 4 Signals- Section 5 Beacons
- 3.04 Municipal Code 245-9 Official Traffic Signs and Signals

4.00 **DEFINITIONS**

- 4.01 Regulatory sign: is a traffic sign advising drivers of action they should or must do (or not do), under a given set of circumstances. Some examples of regulatory signs include, but are not limited to, stop signs, speed limit signs, no parking signs, etc. Violation of regulatory signs may result in a civil forfeiture.
- 4.02 Warning sign: is a non-regulatory sign. These are traffic signs that indicate a hazard ahead on the road that may not be readily apparent to a driver and might call for a reduction of speed or an action in the interest of safety and efficient traffic operations. These signs are typically diamond-shaped (square with one diagonal vertical) with a black legend and border on a yellow background. Some examples of warning signs include, but are not

limited to, road alignment signs, no outlet signs, animal crossing signs, proximity to municipal parks, children playing, etc. There is no lawful penalty for violation of warning signs

5.00 City-Initiated Warning Signs

Where warranted in the opinion of the City Engineer / Director of Public Works, the Department of Public Works is authorized and directed to procure, erect and maintain appropriate traffic signs in accordance with the Municipal Code 245-9 Official Traffic Signs and Signals.

6.00 Public-Initiated Warning Signs

- 6.01 When a warning sign is not initiated by the City Engineer / Director of Public Works, such warning signs may be requested by submitting a form for this purpose to the City Engineering Department. The request will be placed on a Board of Public Works agenda for discussion and decision.
- 6.02 If the Board of Public Works discusses the matter and decides that the posting of the requested sign(s) is warranted, then the Department of Public Works is authorized and directed to procure, erect and maintain appropriate warning signs.
- 6.03 When, in the opinion and direction of the City Engineer / Director of Public Works the signage is no-longer warranted, the Department of Public Works is authorized and directed to remove said signs. The decision to remove signs may or may not be discussed at the Board of Public Works again.

7.00 Criteria for Board of Public Works to Consider Warrant of Warning Signs

- 7.01 Child Crossing Signs: Children at Play, Watch for Children, Slow Children, et al.
 - 1) Per the direction of the Federal Highway Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other transportation organizations, these signs shall **not** be posted.
 - 2) Studies have shown that these signs provide parents and children with a false sense of security that their children are safe when playing in or near the roadway.
 - 3) Studies have indicated no reductions in vehicle speeds or crashes with the children signs present.
 - 4) Warning signs are most effective when they warn of consistent, not occasional conditions and children are not likely to be consistently playing at a particular location in the street at all times.
 - 5) PLAYGROUND and SCHOOL ZONE signs are exempt from this policy.
 - 6) Note that WisDOT has a policy to not install any new Child Crossing signs on any State highway.

- 7.02 Animal Crossing Signs: Animals may include wild or domesticated animals.
- 1) The animal under consideration should have a history of being in the roadway at that location(s).
 - 2) The animal should have adequate mass to cause damage or injury to the vehicle occupants.
 - 3) Damage or injury to the animal should **not** be a consideration.
 - 4) Accident history to traveling public should be reviewed.
 - 5) Note that studies have concluded that the usage of static deer crossing warning signs do not reduce vehicle speeds and WisDOT has a policy to not install any new static deer crossing signs on any State highway.
- 7.03 Special Needs Persons: Autistic Child, Deaf/Blind Person, et al.
- 1) The special needs and ages(s) of the person(s) and how the condition may warrant special warning to a driver.
 - 2) The configuration and other physical features of the roadway right-of-way. I.e., is there a location of a pathway or sidewalk to keep a person safe? Is there vegetation that prevents a driver from clearly seeing a person who might be in the road?
 - 3) If warranted, the Board shall establish a time limit for the sign. At the end of the time, the applicant shall reapply or the sign(s) will be subject to removal.
- 7.04 Other Crossing Signs: Trail Crossing, Pedestrian Crossing, Snowmobile Crossing, Truck Crossing, et al.
- 1) Locations where unexpected entries into the roadway might occur.
 - 2) Locations where shared use of the roadway by pedestrians might occur.
 - 3) Probability of occurrences of the above.
 - 4) Crossing accommodations at the location. I.e. are curb ramps, painted crosswalks, or other features installed to allow or encourage a crossing.
 - 5) Should pedestrians or vehicles be encouraged to cross at the location due to other road or traffic considerations?
- 7.05 Hidden Road Features: Hidden Driveway, Hill Blocks View, Truck Entrance, et al.
- 1) Does the driveway have inadequate sight distance per the visibility chart in the WisMUTCD section 2C.37 when determining the need for the sign due to a crest vertical curve? Vision problems due to horizontal curvature or vegetation shall not warrant use of this sign.
 - 2) The volume of the driveway shall be a minimum of 50 ADT (25 in, 25 out). A typical one-family residence generates about 10 trips per day and therefore would not qualify for the sign.

- 3) A side road or driveway entrance may require acceleration/deceleration or bypass lanes.
- 4) 50 ADT provides for a driveway for a small business. The volumes must exceed 50 ADT at least once per week or 50 days per year.
- 5) Truck Entrance signs have been commonly used for driveways with limited sight distance; however, their usage is exclusive to driveways or side streets with high truck traffic volumes.
- 6) Crash history – if the driveway does not meet the volume criteria above, but a crash analysis indicates there is a crash history at the driveway location, a sign may be considered.

7.06 Road Configuration Features: Hill Blocks View, et al.

- 1) These signs may be used in advance of a crest vertical curve to advise road users to reduce speed as they approach and traverse the hill as only limited stopping sight distance is available.
- 2) See WisMUTCD section 2C.36 for visibility chart for various speeds.

7.07 Flashing Beacons: Intersection Control Beacon, Stop Beacon Speed Limit, Sign Beacon Warning Beacon (Includes Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons), et al.

- 1) Flashing beacons (a.k.a. flashers, warning flashers, beacons) are a special type of signal indication used to supplement standard regulatory and warning signs.
- 2) Consideration of these warning devices shall have an engineering evaluation prepared to consider compliance with WsDOT Traffic Engineering, Operations & Safety Manual Chapter 4 signals- Section 5 Beacons.

7.06 Other Warning Signs as requested.

- 1) The above categories are not exhaustive of the warning signs that the Board of Public Works may consider.
- 2) Any warning sign may be requested on forms provided by the City Engineering Department.
- 3) The City Engineer, Police Chief, and other City Departments, as applicable shall consider the request and provide recommendations and opinions for the Board of Public Works to Consider.



WARNING SIGN APPLICATION FORM

This application is as referenced in Public Policy 1-2022 Warning Sign Policy for a Public-Initiated Warning Sign request. Applicant/Requestor shall use this form and submit it to the Engineering Department. For more information or questions please contact the Engineering Department.

Name	
Address	City, State, Zip Code
Email Address	Phone Number

Please select the warning sign you would like to request.

- Child Crossing Sign *Note: Children at Play, Slow Children, etc. will no longer be posted outside of school/playground zones.*
- Animal Crossing, please specify animal _____
- Special Needs
 - Specify Special Needs: _____
 - If applicable, please attach any relevant medical documents to the application*
- Other Crossing: Please Specify _____
- Hidden Road Features: Please Specify _____
- Road Configuration Feature: Please Specify _____
- Flashing Beacon: Please Specify _____
- Other: Please Specify _____

Enter the road section(s) you wish to erect a sign(s) on.

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO

Please explain/justify why you believe the requested warning sign(s) is necessary at the road section(s) you have chosen.

 X
Signature

Date [mm/dd/yyyy]

Printed Name

Engineering Staff will schedule your request as quickly as possible that considers time to research and place on a Board of Public Works agenda. With some exceptions, the Board generally meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall- 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin WI 53231.