

Becker Township Road Sign Inventory, Retro-Reflectivity Compliance Evaluation, Use and Replacement Policy

It is the stated objective of Becker Township, Sherburne County, MN to maintain its town roads in a safe but cost effective manner. As part of its maintenance efforts, Becker Township recognizes that regulatory , warning, and directional road signs (commonly referred to collectively as safety signs), including but not limited to stop signs, yield signs and other similar traffic control devices, need to be properly inventoried, assessed for compliance with applicable retro-reflectivity standards, maintained, and replaced at scheduled intervals. Becker Township further recognizes that when signs are installed within town road rights of way they must comply with state and federal regulations as primarily outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. As part of its efforts to comply with applicable regulations, the Town Board of Becker Township shall be guided by the following plan adopted in accordance with Section 2A.08 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices:

1. **Inventory.** Becker Township recognizes the importance of knowing the number, type, and location of roads signs within township road rights of way and is therefore committed to completing and maintaining a road sign inventory. The Sign inventory shall be updated by the Township Sign Contractor each time a sign is installed, replaced, or removed but not less than on an annual basis. The inventory shall indicate the type of sign, the number of each type of sign, the location of each sign including the direction the sign faces, the date of installation (when known for pre-existing signs), type of material used on sign face (when known), a general statement on the condition of the sign, a record of any maintenance performed on the sign, and the date of sign removal if applicable.
2. **State or County Signage.** Maintenance of signs along approaches to State or County Highway shall be the responsibility of the State or County Road Authority. Damaged signs shall be reported to the responsible road authority.
3. **Removal of Excess Signs.** In recognition of the fact that excess road signs have been shown to reduce the effectiveness of signage, as well as impose an unnecessary financial burden on the road authority, it shall be the policy of Becker Township to remove signs determined to be unnecessary for safety purposes and which are not otherwise required to comply with an applicable state or federal statute or regulation. The removal of signs shall be based on an engineering study and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Particular attention shall be paid to recommendations on signage for roads considered to be “low-volume” under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as adopted by the State. The removal recommendation shall be documented by the Township Engineer and noted in the sign inventory and unauthorized signs will be removed from township rights of way. Becker Township will only use curve warning signs or chevrons on curves in rural residential sub developments when

the curve in question is designed to meet traffic speeds of 10 mph or more under the statutory speed limit. The Becker Town Board has the goal of public safety and consistency while not over signing, the final decision on each curve's actual signage within sub developments will rest with the Township Engineer.

4. Speed limit signs in adopted Rural Residential Districts are required under MN Statute 169.14. In rural sub-developments where the town board has officially adopted the sub-development as a "Rural Residential District", speed limit signs must be used near each sub development entrance from a major outside highway. Outside of the policy for Rural Residential District entrances the decision to use speed limit signs and sign locations will be the responsibility of the Township Engineer.
5. Sign Relocation. If, in the course of the inventory, a sign is determined to be poorly positioned and in need of relocation, the relocation recommendation shall be documented by the Township Engineer and noted in the sign inventory
6. Retro-reflectivity Evaluation. In recognition of the new retro-reflectivity standards adopted into the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices by the Federal Highway Administration, the town board shall arrange to have all town road signs not removed under Section 3 above evaluated for compliance with the applicable retro-reflectivity standards. It shall be the intent of the township to conduct this evaluation using the following method as authorized by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices rules:

- a. Visual Nighttime Inspection Method
 - i. Utilizing Calibration Sign Procedure

The Board reserves the right to change which evaluation method will be utilized as expressly found necessary by the Board due to budgetary constraints or other practical difficulties in completing this process.

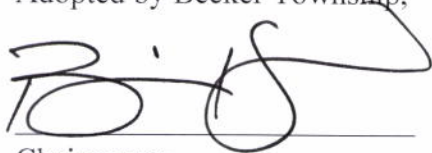
7. Sign Replacement. After completion of the inventory, removal of unnecessary signs, and proper retro-reflectivity evaluation, the Town Board hereby establishes the following priority order in which road signs will be replaced:
 - a. First priority shall be given to replacing all signs determined not to meet applicable retro-reflectivity standards. Top priority shall also be given to replacing missing or damaged signs determined to be of a priority for safety purposes.
 - b. Second priority shall be given to signs determined to be marginal in their retro-reflectivity evaluation.

- c. Third priority shall be given to all remaining signs as they come to the end of their anticipated service life, become damaged, etc. The sign sheeting is to be 3M Diamond Grade 3, (DG3), having an anticipated service life of 12 years.

In addition, within each category above, further priority shall be given to warning and regulatory signs on roads with higher vehicle usage. All regulatory, warning and post mounted guide signs are to be replaced by the date set forth in the Minnesota Manual of Traffic Control Devices, (MNMUTCD), (anticipated deadline January 2017). All overhead guide signs and street name signs are to be replaced by the date established in the MNMUTCD.

- 8. On-going Maintenance. The Town shall include a general inspection of road signs in township rights of way as part of its annual road inspections. The Town shall update its sign inventory as provided in Section 1. The Town shall, for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to maintain minimum retro-reflectivity standards, shall, as budgetary factors allow, replace signs as they reach the end of the latter of their (a) warranty period; (b) expected life expectancy for the facing material used on the sign; or (c) expected life as determined by an authorized engineering study. In general, the Township will implement and budget for replacement of one twelfth, (1/12), of its total sign inventory on an annual basis. In order to provide for efficient sign replacement efforts, the “blanket replacement” approach will concentrate on corridors or areas within the township as directed by the Board during its annual road inspection. The annual budget value will be determined upon completion of the sign inventory program. Damaged, stolen, or missing signs shall be replaced as needed.

Adopted by Becker Township, 22-Aug 2017



Chairperson



Clerk