

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering Guidelines

NUMBER: TG-27

SUBJECT: Installation of Decorative or Architectural Posts/Brackets to Mount Standard Highway Signs

BACKGROUND: Municipalities often request to use decorative posts or mounting brackets as part of streetscaping or community improvement projects. Decorative Posts/Brackets can be defined as a non-standard sign support used in the installation of regulatory signs, street name signs, S-Route signs, etc. along the State Highway System. The MUTCD does not directly address decorative posts other than what is provided in Section 2D.50 regarding Community Wayfinding Signs (See TG-18 for full details on wayfinding signs).

This guideline establishes basic requirements for decorative posts/mounting brackets and establishes maintenance procedures and responsibilities in order to help maintain uniformity on the State Highway System.

GUIDELINE: Section A: STANDARDS

1. The local government or municipality requesting decorative posts shall develop a signing plan showing post locations and the signs to be mounted on each post. The local government should submit their plan to the District Traffic Engineer for approval.
2. Decorative posts shall not be allowed on full-controlled access highways, including ramps.
3. The local government shall be responsible for the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of the decorative appurtenances. Maintenance shall include replacing or repairing the non-standard or decorative supports if damaged or deteriorated, and relocating the signs if necessary due to roadway redesign or other activities. All work shall be performed at no cost to SCDOT under an encroachment permit or an approved project. SCDOT shall have final approval of all sign designs and locations.
4. SCDOT will supply the appropriate regulatory signs (i.e. stop, yield, etc.) and S-Route signs for the initial installation by the local government. After the initial installation, SCDOT will maintain the regulatory signs and S-Route signs.
5. Non-standard signs will not be allowed.
6. If SCDOT is informed that one of these installations has been knocked-over and/or damaged such that the regulatory sign is not readily visible, SCDOT will replace the sign on a standard Department-approved metal

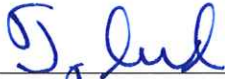
post until the local government repairs or replaces the decorative sign post.

7. All street name signs installed on the decorative posts shall be in accordance with Section 2D.43, "Street Name Signs", of the MUTCD.
8. All post locations shall be in accordance with Section 2A.16, "Standardization of Location", of the MUTCD.

Section B: POST DESIGN

1. Decorative posts shall be designed, constructed, and installed to meet the Department's clear zone and safety criteria, including breakaway features. The sign supports shall meet the breakaway criteria of NCHRP 350 including having an approval letter issued by the FHWA. A listing of approval letters can be found at:
http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/
2. Decorative posts shall include rigid brackets for SCDOT S-Route signs where these signs are required.
3. Decorative posts shall be designed to accommodate the wind load present in the design area of the state based on the latest edition of the *AASHTO: Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals*. More detailed maps for wind loading can be found on the South Carolina Labor, Licensing and Regulation website.
4. Decorative posts shall not be designed as such that the post distracts the driver's attention from the signing.

Approved:



Director of Traffic Engineering



Date