

Cheboygan County Road Commission

Road Sign Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniformity in the installation and maintenance of signs located in the Cheboygan County Road Commission rights-of-ways. This policy will outline the typical applications and procedure for the placement of signs along the roadways for the safety of the public.

The Cheboygan County Road Commission recognizes that the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) is the standard for all traffic control devices on all public roads in Michigan. All traffic control devices installed in Cheboygan County Road Commission rights-of-ways shall conform to MMUTCD standards and specification as stipulated in the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300 of 1949 Section 257.608.

Proper location and use of signs as warranted and recommended by the MMUTCD leads to safe roadways for the traveling public. Elimination of unnecessary signs will reduce sign clutter, lower maintenance costs and standardize implementation of signs installed in the public rights-of-ways.

Guidelines established by this policy will provide criteria to evaluate sign requests, by the public and Townships, that are consistent from one request to another.

II. Unauthorized Signs

Any sign that is installed without the permission of the Cheboygan County Road Commission, or its personnel, will be considered unauthorized and may be removed immediately and without prior notice.

III. Traffic Sign Standards and Guidance

A. Regulatory Signs

i. Stop Signs

All signs must meet current MMUTCD warrants. Any request for a stop sign will be subject to an engineering study to determine if warrants are satisfied.

ii. Speed Limit Signs

The Cheboygan County Road Commission will set realistic and enforceable speed limits on roads under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission. The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code allows for “absolute” and “prima facie” speed limits.

Absolute speed limits are supported by traffic control orders issued by the Michigan State Police. A road will be considered for a absolute speed limit if it meets the following requirements:

1. A written request for a speed limit on a road must be made by the Township where the road is located.
2. The road is paved.
3. The road must be paved and a minimum of ½ mile in length.

Absolute speed limits will not be considered on gravel roads due to continuously changing surface conditions. After a request, that meets the above conditions, is received the Road Commission will conduct a speed study to determine if a modified speed limit will be warranted. After the speed study is completed and if it is determined that a change in the current speed limit is warranted, the Road Commission will contact the Michigan State Police to obtain a Traffic Control Order for the new speed limit. Any speed limit change will be based on the 85th percentile speed from the speed study. Only after a Traffic Control Order is issued by the Michigan State Police will a speed limit sign be installed.

Prima facie speed limits are intended for residential subdivisions and business districts. Prima facie speed limits have been established by the legislature. A road will be considered for a prima facie speed limit if it meets the following requirements:

Residential subdivision:

1. A written request for a speed limit on a road must be made by the Township where the road is located.
2. The road does not serve through traffic.
3. The road is paved.
4. The road is located entirely within the boundaries of a subdivision plat or site condominium. Both sides of the road must be part of the subdivision plat or site condominium, OR the density of residential dwellings equals or exceeds 30 within a ½ miles section of road.

Business district:

1. A written request for a speed limit on a road must be made by the Township where the road is located.
2. The road is paved.
3. The area that is contiguous to the highway with the total widths of the adjacent buildings in use for commercial business open to the general public on both sides occupy 50 percent or more of the total frontage of both sides for a distance of 600 feet or more.

Prima facie speed limits will not be considered on gravel roads due to continuously changing surface conditions.

Prima Facie speed limits are:

25 mph in a business district.

25 mph in a residential subdivision or site condominium.

25 mph on road with 60 or more vehicle access points within a half mile section.

30 mph on road with 50 to 59 vehicle access points within a half mile section.

35 mph on road with 45 to 49 vehicle access points within a half mile section.

40 mph on road with 40 to 44 vehicle access points within a half mile section.

45 mph on road with 30 to 39 vehicle access points within a half mile section.

iii. No Parking Signs

Shall only be used when a Traffic Control Order is issued by the Michigan State Police (in accordance with MCL 257.627).

iv. Seasonal Weight Restriction Signs

Seasonal weight restriction signs will be placed at locations determined by the Road Commission. Seasonal weight restriction signs are not required to be posted but installed at key areas to inform the public. Seasonal weight restriction information is posted on the Cheboygan County Road Commission website.

v. Load Limit Signs

Shall only be installed at the direction of the County Highway Engineer.

vi. Seasonal Road Signs

Seasonal Road signs shall be installed at the intersections of a seasonal road and a road that is non-seasonal.

B. Warning Signs

Warning signs advise road users of unexpected road conditions that require drivers to use extra care to navigate a section of roadway. Warning signs will only be installed where warranted by the MMUTCD. Only warning signs that are included in the MMUTCD will be used on Cheboygan County Roads. Any sign not listed below may be installed by the Road Commission after a traffic study has been completed to determine if a sign is warranted.

- i. Child at Play Signs – The Cheboygan County Road Commissions will not install these types of signs. Property owners may install these signs outside of the road right of way.

- ii. Reduced Speed Ahead Signs – shall only be used in advance of a speed limit with a issued Traffic Control Order.
- iii. Hidden Driveway Signs – Upon request form the Township, the Road Commission will conduct a traffic study to determine if the sign is warranted. Sign and installation costs will be the responsibility of the Township.
- iv. Pedestrian Signs - Upon request form the Township, the Road Commission will conduct a traffic study to determine if the sign is warranted. Sign and installation costs will be the responsibility of the Township.
- v. Deer (or other animal) Crossing Signs - The Cheboygan County Road Commissions will not install these types of signs.
- vi. School Zone – The Road Commission will install the signs required by Michigan Vehicle Code 257.627 A(1)(c). All installation, material and maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the requesting entity.

C. Guide Signs

Guide signs shall only be installed where they are essential to the user or where a sign benefits a significant number of users. Guide signs are installed only when funded by the Township in which they are located.

D. Road Name Signs

i. Public Road Name Signs

- 1. Primary Road Name Signs will be purchased and installed by the Cheboygan County Road Commission.
- 2. Local Road Name Signs will be purchased and installed by the Cheboygan County Road Commission only if paid for by Township or individual funds.

ii. Private Road Signs

- 1. The Cheboygan County Road Commission may install private road name signs requested by a Township or individual for a fixed fee. The fee shall be based on cost of time and materials, assuming one (1) hour to install. Applicant will be required to provide documentation from GIS/Equalization with the correct name and spelling of the private road. The administrative staff shall periodically review the cost of time and materials and make necessary adjustments to keep the fee current.