

Iowa Scenic Byways Signage Policy Summary

The following are excerpts and details from the Iowa Byways Signage Policy which is available on the Iowa DOT website at: <https://iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/iowa-Byways-signage>.

Generally

The guidelines contained in the policy, are intended to give field personnel the information needed to install and maintain Byway Guide signs on the primary road system, secondary roads, local roads, and city streets that are designated as Iowa Byways.

The applicable sections of the Traffic and Safety Manual include post mounting supports, longitudinal location of signs along a roadway, lateral placement of signs, sign mounting height, and details on hardware as well as assembly and sign maintenance. The guidelines have been developed to supplement the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Selected Installation Guidelines

Byway Guide Signs should be:

- Located on the right side of the roadway.
- Installed on posts and with mountings to supplement and be part of route marker and directional guide signs (Route Guide Sign Assemblies)
- Installed on a separate post from the Route Guide Sign Assembly in cases where there are already two numbered route markers

Longitudinal Placement:

- Shall be adjacent to route guide sign assemblies.
- If engineering judgment indicates that a Byway Guide sign assembly cannot be located adjacent to Route Guide Sign Assemblies, alternative placement shall be considered.
- The State Traffic Engineer will provide assistance for individual cases at the request of the District Office for primary routes.

Lateral Placement:

- Good signing practice requires that signs be at least 6 feet from the edge of the shoulder and at least 12 feet from the edge of the traveled way.
- Standard offsets are:
- Minimum - 18 feet distance from edge of the traveled way to near post
- Desirable - 24 feet distance from edge of the traveled way to near post
- It is recognized that there may be unusual circumstances where these distances cannot be attained and more guidance is provided in the manual.

Mounting Height

- 7' urban
- 5' rural

Confirmation and Reassurance Signs

- Confirming Assembly shall be erected just beyond primary and secondary intersections and intersections of numbered routes to inform motorists when they turn onto a byway route.
- Reassurance Assemblies as necessary
 - Rural minimum of two miles
 - Urban minimum of about 6 blocks

Post Type

Beginning September 2015, standard new or replacement post installation is Perforated Square Steel Tube (PSST)

Typical Inspection Checklist for Byway Sign Installation Contractors

- ✓ GPS location is obtained
- ✓ Photos have been taken of both front and back of sign assembly
- ✓ Sign height has been measured and confirmed to be within acceptable range
- ✓ Sign height and placement is confirmed
- ✓ Threads for bolt tying bracket are crimped for prevention of removal
- ✓ Signs are installed in the correct order (Most important sign closest to the road.)
- ✓ Sign is stable when test shaken
- ✓ Punch sticker has been placed on the back of each byway sign and auxiliary sign
- ✓ Verify directional assembly (auxiliary) is pointing visitors the correct way