



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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SIGNS IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

Except for portable signs following the standards of *Federal Way Revised Code* (FWRC) 19.140.060(29) and 19.140.090, all private signs are prohibited in the right-of-way. In order to provide clarification to the city's enforcement of the sign code, the following will constitute the procedure and criteria for establishing right-of-way boundaries and the removal of signs from the right-of-way.

For purposes of enforcing the City of Federal Way sign code, right-of-way is defined as that area of public property which contains roadways, planting strips, sidewalks, landscaping, streetlights, and utility infrastructure. The following indicators will be used by city staff to establish right-of-way boundaries:

- Where present, fences separating private property from public property.
- Utility infrastructure, which generally runs parallel to the road surfaces and is delineated by public and private utility indicators, such as telephone/power poles, fire hydrants, in- and above-ground vaults, phone and cable risers, and other identifiable utility indicators. Since there is no uniformity in the placement of the utility indicators, the right-of-way is determined as an imaginary line drawn through those utility markers farthest from the road surface and parallel with the edge of the pavement.
- Landscaped areas located along roadways that are mowed or otherwise maintained by the city.

Based on the above description, it will be the practice of staff to record illegal signs by taking a digital picture before removing signs located within the right-of-way. Signs located on private property will be addressed through civil enforcement. Signs that cannot be clearly identified to be located in the right-of-way will be treated as located on private property. Signs attached directly to poles or fences in the right-of-way shall be removed. It is the sign installer's responsibility to place signs in compliance with city code.

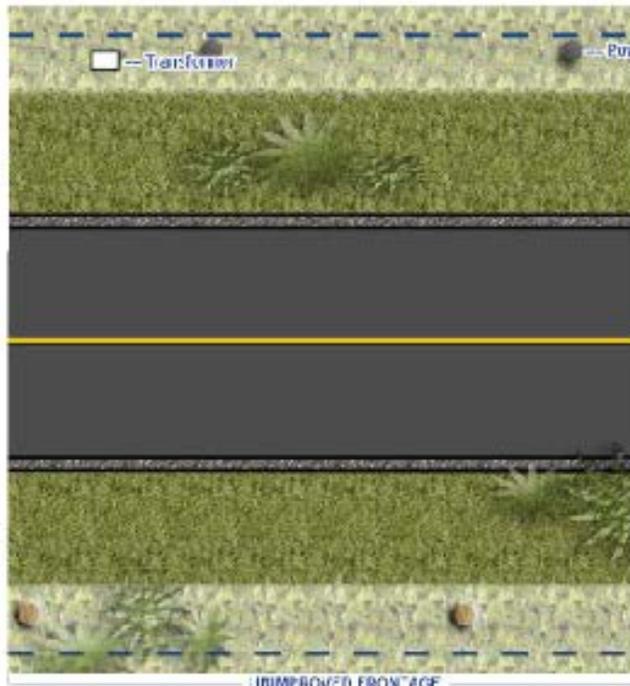
All other sections of the city's sign code will be enforced as adopted.

Establishing Right of Way for sign code enforcement

Right of way is defined as the area of public property which contains roadways, planting strips, sidewalks and landscaping, streetlights and utility infrastructure. When present, fences and city landscaping maintenance areas will be used to delineate right of way. If these indicators are not present, the right of way will be delineated by public and private utility infrastructure generally running parallel to the road surface such as telephone poles, fire hydrants, in and above ground vaults, phone and cable risers and other identifiable utility indicators. Since there is no uniformity in the placement of the utility indicators, right of way is determined as an imaginary line drawn through those utility markers farthest from the road surface and running parallel with the edge of pavement.



City Maintained
Roadway Landscaping



City Maintained
Roadway Landscaping



- Fences (if present)
- Utility marker farthest from pavement edge
- Sidewalk
- Planting strip
- Curb & gutter
- Center of road
- Pavement edge
- Fences (if present)
- Utility marker farthest from pavement edge