

ARTICLE 16: SIGN REGULATIONS

Section 333: General

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of these regulations are to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Franklin County by creating the legal framework for a comprehensive and balanced system of signs that will preserve the right of free speech and expression, provide an easy and pleasant communication between people and their environment and avoid the visual clutter that is potentially harmful to traffic and pedestrian safety, property values, business opportunities and community appearance.
2. The specific purposes of these regulations are to:
 - a. Ensure signs are compatible with their surroundings; and
 - b. Permit the effective use of signs as a means of communication in the County; and
 - c. Maintain pedestrian and traffic safety and minimize the distractions, hazards and obstructions caused by signs; and
 - d. Minimize the possible adverse effects of signs on nearby property and rights-of-way; and
 - e. Enable fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations; and
 - f. Preserve the quality community image of Franklin County, thereby protecting and enhancing the economic vitality of the County by ensuring it remains a desirable place to live, work and visit.

B. Applicability

1. The provisions of these regulations govern the installation, erection, size, type, number, location, height and width of all signs.
2. Signs may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained only in conformance with the provisions of this section.
3. The requirements set forth in this article shall be applicable to all billboards (large) and billboards (mini) approved and built after the effective date of this amendment. Any existing billboard (large) or billboard (mini) shall be considered nonconforming and any repair, maintenance or replacement shall comply with Article 6 of the Franklin County Unified Land Use Regulations.

C. Relationship to State Regulations

1. The sign regulations of this chapter shall not supersede, but be in addition to, the State of Missouri rules and regulations relating to the control of advertising in areas adjacent to interstate and federal-aid primary highways. In the event of a conflict between regulations, the more restrictive will control.
2. Sign placement on numbered State Highways (except Highway 185 and sections of Highway 30) must be approved by MoDOT.

Section 334: Billboards (Mini)

Billboards (mini) shall be allowed in the areas zoned “W”, “B”, “R”, “A”, and “G” only if they comply with the following standards:

- A. Size of Signs: All billboards (mini) shall be reviewed and permitted through the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Department and shall not exceed 32 square feet.
- B. Sign Setbacks: Billboards (mini) shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from any property line. All billboards (mini) shall be located outside the site triangle, and not interfere with site distance, as required and approved by the Highway Administrator.
- C. Sign Height: Billboards (mini) shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet (including base) on the high side of the sign.
- D. Sign Lighting: Mini billboards shall not be illuminated or lighted.
- E. Exempt Signs: All real estate, political, religious and recognized 501(c)(3) organization signs shall be exempt from these regulations as long as they are not encroaching on the right-of-way.
- F. Permit Process:
 - 1. No person shall erect or display a billboard (mini) unless the Planning Department has issued a permit for the sign or this Section exempts the sign from the permit requirement.
 - 2. Application. A person proposing to erect or display a billboard (mini) shall file an application for a permit with the Planning Department. The application shall contain the following:
 - a. Completed Application
 - b. A site plan, based on an aerial photo, showing the following:
 - i. Location of sign
 - ii. Other buildings on property
 - iii. Other signs located on property
 - c. An elevation of the structure showing the size and height of each billboard (mini)
 - 3. A one-time permit fee of \$60 shall be charged for new billboard (mini) installation. No annual fees are required.
- G. Maintenance and Violations:

Any billboard (mini) that is found to be in violation of any of this Article or other applicable regulations of the County, the owner, or firm, shall be notified of such violation by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The owner, or firm, will be given thirty (30) days to make such billboard (mini) conform to this Article, or other applicable codes of the County, or shall remove it. Any violations are subject to criminal prosecution under the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Regulations and the Missouri State Statutes.

Section 335: Billboards (Large)

Billboards (large) shall be subject to the regulations set forth herein and under Sections 226.500 to 226.600, RSMo., and other State and Federal laws pertaining to such signs. No billboard (large) shall be approved, or erected, if it interferes with any easement in effect when the application is filed. The following regulations shall apply to any such billboard (large) sign erected after the effective date of these regulations.

- A. Types of Signs. Billboard (large) signs may be placed back-to-back, double faced or in a V, with no more than two (2) displays to each facing. Such structures shall be considered as one (1). No new billboard (large) shall be erected having more than one (1) viewable faces that are directed toward the same lane(s) of traffic.
- B. Location of signs. Billboard (large) signs shall only be permitted within one hundred (100) feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of numbered highways (Highways 100, 50, 47, 185, 30 and 44) in areas zoned “B”, “R”, “A”, and “G”.
- C. Size of signs. The maximum area for any one (1) billboard (large) shall be 672 square feet with a maximum sign face height of twenty (20) feet or width of fifty (50) feet subject to the measuring provisions of this Article.
- D. Height of signs. The total maximum height of any billboard (large) shall be forty five (45) feet as defined herein. Any communication structures, antennas or other non-moving structures that may be placed on billboards shall not extend higher than twenty (20) additional feet. (See Figure 1)
- E. Spacing of signs. No billboard (large) sign shall be erected within 1,400 feet of any other existing billboard signs in any direction on the same side. This includes measurements from signs located inside the City limits. The term measurement in this section shall be the minimum distances between billboard (large) structures measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs and shall apply only to billboard (large) structures located on the same side of the highway involved.
- F. Billboard (Large) Setbacks.
 - 1. No billboard (large) sign shall be located within twenty (20) feet from any right-of-way. Setback shall be measured from the nearest edge of the sign to the nearest edge of right-of-way. No part of the billboard (large) shall encroach into the twenty (20) foot setback.
 - 2. The distance from the base of the billboard (large) to any side or rear property line shall not be closer than one times the height of the billboard (large).
 - 3. No billboard (large) sign shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of any areas zoned “O”, “T”, “P”, or “Y”.
- G. Lighting of Signs.
 - 1. Billboards (large) may be illuminated by steady, stationary, and shielded light sources directed solely onto the surface of the sign face. No flashing, blinking or intermittent lighting of billboard (large) sign faces shall be allowed.
 - 2. Exterior lighting of billboards (large) shall be arranged to minimize that the light is cast upon neighboring properties as well as any right-of-way.

3. No billboard (large) shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of, or obscures an official traffic sign, device or signal.
4. All billboards (large) shall have a separate meter base or separate disconnect at the sign.

H. Permit Process

1. No person shall erect or display a billboard (large) unless the Planning Department has issued a permit for the sign or this Section exempts the sign from the permit requirement.
2. Application. A person proposing to erect or display a billboard (large) shall file an application with the Planning Department. The application shall contain the following:
 - a. Completed Application
 - b. A site plan, based on a survey, showing the following:
 - i. All existing signs displayed on the property.
 - ii. Any billboard within 1500 feet of the proposed sign and distance to proposed sign on same side of the road.
 - iii. The location, height and size of any proposed signs.
 - iv. Setbacks applicable to sign.
 - v. Cross-section of the sign location including the road.
 - vi. Zoning for the surrounding properties.
 - c. An elevation of the structure showing the size of each billboard (large) face.
 - d. Specifications for the construction or display of the billboard (large) and for its illumination and mechanical movement, if any, are to be provided.
3. The Building Department shall not issue a building permit without a permit having first been issued by the Missouri Department of Transportation and issued by the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Department.
4. Fees: A one-time permit fee shall be charged for new billboard (large) sign installations. This fee shall cover the building permit and the Planning and Zoning permit. No annual fees are required.
 - a. \$300 for any billboard (large) exceeding thirty two (32) square feet but equal to or less than ninety six (96) square feet
 - b. \$300 plus \$1 for every additional foot for any billboard (large) exceeding ninety six (96) square feet.

I. Maintenance and Violations:

Any billboard large that is found to be in violation of any of this Article or other applicable regulations of the County, the owner, or firm, shall be notified of such violation by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The owner, or firm, will be given thirty (30) days to make such billboard (large) conform to this Article, or other applicable codes of the County, or shall remove it. Any violations are subject to criminal prosecution under the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Regulations and the Missouri State Statutes.

Section 337: Prohibited Signs.

The following is prohibited in any area and/or on any sign:

- A. No revolving or rotating beam or beacon of light that simulates any emergency light or device shall be permitted as part of any sign.
- B. No flashing, intermittent or moving light(s) will be permitted.
- C. No stacked billboard (large) or stacked billboard (large) shall be permitted.
- D. No billboard shall be attached to any structure, such as but not limited to, walls and roofs.
- E. Moving signs where any part or all of the sign moves or which appears to move by any means, including fluttering or rotating. This shall include tri-vision billboards.
- F. Any digital billboard (large), digital billboard (mini) or animated signs unless it is a public interest sign.
- G. Signs on public land or public rights-of-way other than real estate signs and those signs erected at the direction or with the permission of a public authority.
- H. Signs that are not securely affixed to the ground or otherwise affixed in a permanent manner to an approved supporting structure.
- I. Signs painted directly on or affixed to trailers with no means of propulsion parked for more than five (5) days in public view on private property, other than those signs incidental to the primary use of the trailer.
- J. Signs installed, erected, enlarged or structurally altered in violation of the provisions of this Article.
- K. Signs that obstruct any window, fire escape, stairway, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress, or egress from a building or structure

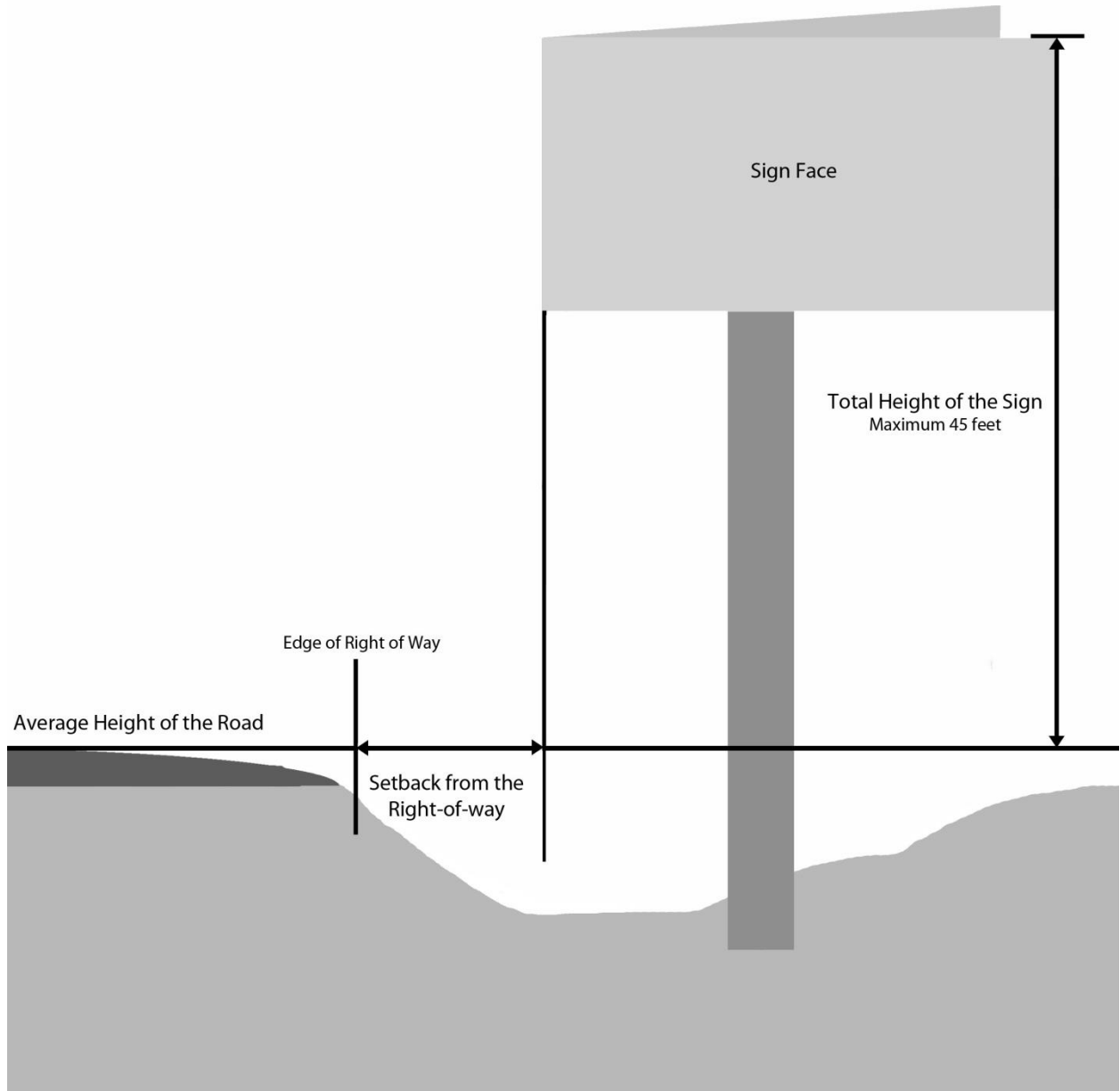


Figure 1