

EXAMPLE NOTIFICATION LETTER

for use by registered landscape architects to meet state requirements

Dear Sign Permittee:

Pursuant to the requirements, of **Rule Chapter 14-40.003(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code** (copy attached), this letter is to notify you that a highway landscape project along State Road XXX in YYY County is proposed within or adjacent to the view zone of your outdoor advertising sign, permit tag number ZZ000/ZZ001. The proposed landscape project will not screen the sign face within the statutorily (Section 479.106, F.S.) provided view zone.

Before landscape plans can be finalized, the rule chapter allows you 30 days, from receipt of this notice, to submit to FDOT an *Application to Permit Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign*. Some sign owners utilize this optional process to request an adjustment to the location of the view zone, and help assure that the sign facing(s) will continue to be visible from the roadway. A vegetation management plan and the services of a certified arborist or registered landscape architect are not required for applications submitted exclusively to request an alternate location for a view zone (when no existing vegetation will be impacted).

At your earliest convenience, I would like to meet with you to explain the community's plan for highway beautification. This information may be helpful to you when determining the best location for the view zone. With your input, I am confident that the plan can provide maximum visibility of your sign facing, while meeting the objectives of the community.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

E.Z. Doesit, Landscape Architect.

Cc: FDOT District Landscape Architect

Attachments: Section 479.106, Florida Statutes
Rule Chapter 14-40.003(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code
Rule Chapter 14-40.030(b) and (c)2., Florida Administrative Code

Section 479.106, Florida Statutes

(6) Beautification projects, trees, or other vegetation shall not be planted or located in the view zone of legally erected and permitted outdoor advertising signs which have been permitted prior to the date of the beautification project or other planting, where such planting will, at the time of planting or after future growth, screen such sign from view.

(a) View zones are established along the public rights-of-way of interstate highways, expressways, federal-aid primary highways, and the State Highway System in the state, excluding privately or other publicly owned property, as follows:

1. A view zone of 350 feet for posted speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less.
2. A view zone of 500 feet for posted speed limits of over 35 miles per hour.

(b) The established view zone shall be within the first 1,000 feet measured along the edge of the pavement in the direction of approaching traffic from a point on the edge of the pavement perpendicular to the edge of the sign facing nearest the highway and shall be continuous unless interrupted by existing, naturally occurring vegetation. The department and the sign owner may enter into an agreement identifying the specific location of the view zone for each sign facing. In the absence of such agreement, the established view zone shall be measured from the sign along the edge of the pavement in the direction of approaching traffic as provided in this subsection.

(8) The intent of this section is to create partnering relationships which will have the effect of improving the appearance of Florida's highways and creating a net increase in the vegetative habitat along the roads

Rule Chapter 14-40.003(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code

No planting or installation of vegetation or other landscape material for landscape projects, or issuance of permits for such planting or installation, including construction and beautification projects, is allowed on Department right of way which screens or which, when mature, will screen an outdoor advertising sign permitted under Chapter 479, F.S. This prohibition applies to outdoor advertising signs exempt from department permitting requirements that are on the state highway system and located within incorporated municipalities. This prohibition applies to all landscape, construction, and beautification projects on Department right of way regardless of the source of funds for the project, except for landscape projects approved by the Department prior to the date of the original, state sign permit for the sign. For purposes of this rule, a landscape, construction, or beautification project is approved when it is specifically identified in the Department's five year work program, is a permitted landscape project, is part of an executed agreement between the Department and a local government, or has been approved in writing by the Department for installation at a later date by a local government.

1. Screening is prohibited within a view zone.
2. When a landscape project is proposed within 1,000 feet approaching a permitted outdoor advertising sign which does not have an approved application for vegetation management, the landscape architect of record will notify the sign permittee at the address provided in accordance with subsection 14-10.011(2), F.A.C., that the permittee has 30 days to submit an [Application to Permit Vegetation Management at Outdoor Advertising Sign...](#) If an application is not submitted by the sign permittee within 30 days of notification, screening will be prohibited as described in paragraph [479.106\(6\)\(b\), F.S.](#)
3. The limits of the screening prohibition may be adjusted pursuant to a written agreement between the sign permittee and a local governmental entity.

Rule Chapter 14-40.030(b) and (c)2., Florida Administrative Code (*paraphrased*)

A Vegetation Management Plan and the services of a certified arborist or registered landscape architect are not required for applications submitted exclusively to establish the location of a view zone.

Contact information for any permitted sign may be obtained by using the [Florida Outdoor Advertising Database](#).
Questions can be directed to the [State Transportation Landscape Architect](#).