



Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

July 21, 2021

Khoa Nguyen
Director, Office of Technical Services
Federal Highway Administration
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: State Specifications Office
Section: **700**
Proposed Specification: **7000502 HIGHWAY SIGNING.**

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

The changes are proposed by Derek Vollmer to clarify Blank Out Sign (BOS) mounting, address password protection for configuration using Bluetooth, and remove the need for AC/DC charging in permanent solar installations to the Standard Specification.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via email to daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at 850-414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Daniel Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/dh

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

HIGHWAY SIGNING.

(REV ~~5-14~~6-7-21)

SUBARTICLE 700-5.2 is deleted and the following substituted:

700-5.2 Material: EWS, EGS, ERS, ~~and~~ ESFS, and ground mounted BOS must allow attachment to vertical and horizontal support structures as part of a single or double sign post configuration. Bolts must be used for load bearing attachments.

For roadside sign assemblies, provide support structure in accordance with 646-2.

700-5.2.1 Requirements Common to all EDS: All EDS must be designed to withstand the loads defined in the Department's Structures Manual without deformation or damage. EDS, other than BOS, must provide an option to include flashing beacons. Printed circuit boards shall be protected with conformal coating. Housings that contain electronics shall be constructed of aluminum alloy sheet a minimum of .090 inches thick. Welding used during the construction of EDS must be accordance with Section 965.

700-5.2.1.1 General: Signs included on the APL will be designated with a size and type category and may be listed with restrictions, such as "requires District Traffic Operations Engineer approval", "school zones only", or "low speed only".

700-5.2.1.2 Electronic Display Sign with Static Sign Panel: EDS that include both a static sign panel and dynamic display may be a modular system comprised of a static sign panel with an attached electronic display. Static sign panels shall meet the Department's requirements for highway signing found in this Section.

700-5.2.2 Electronic Display: Electronic displays shall appear completely blank (dark) when not energized. No phantom characters or graphics will be allowed under any ambient light conditions.

700-5.2.2.1 Housing: The housing must protect and seal the dynamic display and other internal electronics. Any polycarbonate material used on the sign face must be a minimum 90% UV opaque and resistant to fading and yellowing. The housing shall be NEMA 3R rated and prevent unauthorized access. The housing shall include weather tight cable entry or connection points for any required power or data connections.

700-5.2.2.2 Cabinet: Any equipment cabinets provided with the EDS must be listed on the APL.

700-5.2.2.3 Optical, Electrical, and Mechanical Specifications for Display Modules: Ensure that all LEDs operate within the LED manufacturer's recommendations for typical forward voltage, peak pulsed forward current, and other ratings. Component ratings shall not be exceeded under any operating conditions.

700-5.2.2.4 LED and Pixel Specifications: Ensure that all LEDs used in the display have a wavelength output that varies no more than plus or minus two nanometers from the specified peak wavelength. Ensure that the display and LED pixel cone of vision is a minimum of 15 degrees (centered around the optical axis, or zero point, of the pixel). The cone perimeter is defined by the point where light output intensity is 50% of the intensity measured at the zero point of the pixel. For all colors other than white, ensure that the sign display produces an overall luminous intensity of at least 9200 candelas per square meter when operating at 100% intensity. For white or full color matrix displays ensure that the sign display produces white with an overall luminous intensity of at least 12,400 candelas per square meter when operating at 100% intensity. Submit documentation that indicates the LED brightness and color bins that are

used in each pixel. Ensure that LEDs are individually mounted on a PCB, and are able to be removed and replaced using conventional electronic repair methods. Encapsulated LEDs within a pixel are not allowed. ERS LEDs must be arranged and powered in a manner that maintains a discernible message in the event of a single LED or pixel failure.

700-5.2.2.5 Character Size, Fonts, and Graphics: The minimum numeral and letter size of the electronic display must meet or exceed the numeral and letter sizes prescribed in the MUTCD and the SHS. Fonts and graphics must mimic the characteristics of fonts and graphics defined in the MUTCD and SHS.

700-5.2.3 Electronic Display Controller: Any electronic display controller required for the operation of the EDS shall be housed within the sign and be equipped with a security lockout feature to prevent unauthorized use. The controller shall have the capability to provide a stipulated default message upon loss of controller function. A blank message is acceptable.

700-5.2.3.1 Communication: The electronic display controller shall possess a minimum of one serial, Ethernet, USB, or Bluetooth interface with the ability to connect to a laptop computer. The serial data interface shall support multiple data rates from 9,600 bps to 115,200 bps.

700-5.2.3.2 Configuration and Management: Ensure that the sign is provided with computer software from its manufacturer that allows a user to program, operate, exercise, diagnose, and read current status of all sign features and functions using a laptop.

Configuration and management functions must be password protected.

700-5.2.4 Operation and Performance: Ensure that the EDS is visible from a distance of at least 1/4 mile and legible from a distance of 400 feet for applications on roads with a speed limit less than 45 mph and visible from a distance of at least 1/2 mile and legible from a distance of at least 650 feet for roads with speed limits 45 mph or higher. In both cases, the requirements must be met under both day and night conditions.

The electronic display shall automatically adjust brightness for day and night operation. The EDS must be equipped with a light sensor that accurately measures ambient light level conditions at the sign location. The EDS must automatically adjust LED intensity based on the ambient light conditions in small enough increments that the sign's brightness changes smoothly, with no perceivable brightness change between adjacent levels. Stray headlights shining on the photoelectric sensor at night must not cause LED brightness changes.

Flashing messages must not exceed 150 flashes per minute.

700-5.2.5 Mechanical Specifications: EDS mounting provisions and mounting hardware must accommodate sign weight and wind loading requirements of the Department's Structures Manual. BOS must be designed to accommodate overhead attachment using a tri-stud signal hanger. Multiple tri-stud attachment points may be used to meet weight and wind loading requirements. Tri-stud attachment points must be weather-tight and structurally reinforced.

700-5.2.5.1 Fasteners and Attachment Hardware: Ensure that all assembly hardware, including nuts, bolts, external screws and locking washers less than 5/8 inch in diameter, are Type 304 or 316 passivated stainless steel. Stainless steel bolts, screws and studs must meet ASTM F593. Nuts must meet ASTM F594. All assembly hardware greater than or equal to 5/8 inch in diameter must be galvanized. Bolts, studs, and threaded rod must meet ASTM A307. Structural bolts must meet ASTM F3125, Grade A325.

700-5.2.6 Electrical Specifications: All power inputs must be fuse and reverse polarity protected. All EDS must be able to recover from power loss and return to their operational state without user intervention.

700-5.2.6.1 Solar Power: Solar powered signs must be capable of fully autonomous operation 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Batteries must be a standard 12 volt deep cycle battery suitable for the application and operating environment. Flooded lead-acid batteries are prohibited.

Batteries must be capable of providing 10 days of continuous operation without sunlight. Charging system must use a solar charge controller with temperature compensation. The system must provide for automatic battery charging, overcharge protection, and have indications that display current status and faults.

700-5.2.6.2 AC Power: Fluctuations in line voltage must have no visible effect on the appearance of the display.

700-5.2.7 Electronic Warning Signs (EWS): The EWS must be designed to alert road users to conditions that might call for a reduction of speed or an action, in the interest of safety and efficient traffic operations. EWS must include a secure wireless connection to communicate with a nearby laptop.

700-5.2.7.1 EWS Foreground/Background Colors: If a black background is used on the changeable electronic display, the color used for the legend must match the background color that would be used on a standard sign for that type of legend, in accordance with the MUTCD. Black EWS display backgrounds must be flat black (FED-STD-595-37038) with a reflectance value not exceeding 25%. EWS must utilize yellow LEDs with a peak wavelength of either 585 or 590 nanometers. EWS must have a minimum one-inch contrasting margin around illuminated characters or graphics.

700-5.2.7.2 Speed Detector: EWS that detect or display the speed of approaching vehicles must be programmable for the posted speed limit and the maximum speed to display. When the detected speed exceeds the maximum programmed speed (high speed cut-off) threshold, the display must automatically blank. Alternately, the display may show an alert message such as "SLOW DOWN" when speeds above the maximum programmed speed threshold are detected.

The EWS must detect when the posted speed is exceeded by one mph and then activate the alert. When the alert is activated, the display shall be able to flash. When no advancing traffic is detected, the display must be blank. The speed detector must not activate alerts for vehicles outside the display cone of vision.

The speed detector must meet the requirements of FCC Title 47, Part 90 and not require an FCC operating license. The speed detector must operate on 10.8 to 16.6 V_{DC} and draw less than three amperes. The EWS must monitor and display the speed of approaching traffic only. The EWS detector must be able to accurately detect and determine the speed of approaching vehicles. The EWS must be capable of measuring and displaying speeds of approaching traffic only between 10 and 99 mph with an accuracy of plus or minus one mph, 1,000 feet in advance of the sign.

700-5.2.8 Electronic Guide Signs (EGS): Meet the requirements of electronic warning sign (EWS) with the following exceptions: Use a white legend and green background in accordance with the MUTCD. EGSs must utilize white LEDs.

700-5.2.9 Electronic Regulatory Signs (ERS): The ERS must be designed to give notice of traffic laws or regulations, such as the posted speed limit. ERS used for variable

speed limit (VSL) applications must be able to display speed limits from 5-70 mph in five mph increments and mimic the physical appearance of a static regulatory speed limit sign as shown in the MUTCD and SHS. ERS for VSL applications shall use black characters on a white background. ERS for VSL applications must log the time and date of any speed limit change to internal non-volatile memory. The log must be able to record a minimum of 1,000 events in a first-in, first-out fashion.

700-5.2.9.1 Foreground/Background Colors and Display Types:

Display modules for all ERS must have a minimum two-inch contrasting margin around digits, text, or graphics. ERS must utilize LED technology for the dynamic display.

700-5.2.9.2 Variable Speed Limit (VSL) ERS Controller

Communications: ERS for variable speed applications must be equipped with a sign controller that includes a minimum of one Ethernet 10/100 Base TX 8P8C port.

700-5.2.9.3 Configuration and Management Requirements for VSL

ERS: Ensure that ERS for VSL applications can be managed remotely from a TMC or managed locally using a laptop computer. Ensure that the TMC or a laptop computer can be used to remotely reset VSL sign controllers. Ensure that ERS for VSL applications log and report status, errors, and failures, including data transmission errors, receipt of invalid data, communication failure recoveries, alternating current power failures, power recoveries, display errors, fan and airflow status, temperature status, power supply status, and information on the operational status of the temperature, photocell, airflow, humidity, and LED power supply sensors.

Ensure that the sign controller is addressable through an Ethernet communication network using software that complies with the NTCIP requirements published online by the Department's Transportation Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory (TERL) at: <https://www.fdot.gov/traffic/>. Ensure that the sign implements any NTCIP standards required to achieve interoperability and interchangeability. Ensure that any additional objects implemented by the software do not interfere with the standard operation of any mandatory objects. ERS must be compatible with the Department's SunGuide® software.

700-5.2.9.4 ERS Battery Backup System: AC powered signs must include a battery backup system that maintains full operation of the sign for a minimum of two hours in the event of utility power loss. Operation on battery backup can have no visible effect on the appearance of the display.

700-5.2.10 Blank-Out Signs (BOS): EDSs designed for BOS applications must have a black exterior finish (FED-STD-595-37038) with a reflectance value not exceeding 25%. Overhead BOS must include a visor.

700-5.2.11 Electronic Speed Feedback Signs (ESFS): The ESFS must be designed to alert road users of their speed as they approach the sign.

700-5.2.11.1 ESFS Background/Foreground Colors: The ESFS display background must be flat black (FED-STD-595-37038) with a reflectance value not exceeding 25%. ESFS must utilize amber LEDs with a peak wavelength of 590 nanometers. ESFS shall have a minimum one-inch contrasting margin around illuminated characters or graphics.

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activated, the display must flash at a rate of 50 to 60 cycles per minute. When no advancing traffic is detected, the display must be blank. The speed detector must not activate alerts or display speeds for vehicles outside the display's cone of vision. The ESFS must meet the requirements of FCC Part 90 and not require an FCC operating license. The speed detector must operate on 10.8 to 16.6 V_{DC}. The ESFS must be capable of measuring speeds of approaching traffic between 10 and 99 mph with an accuracy of plus or minus one mph, 1,000 feet in advance of the sign.

700-5.2.12 Environmental Requirements: The EDS assembly must operate properly during and after being subjected to the environmental testing procedures described in NEMA TS 4-2016, Section 2. Fog, frost, or condensation must not form within the dynamic portion of the sign. Electronics must meet FCC Title 47, Subpart B Section 15.

700-5.2.13 Warranty: Ensure that the EDS systems and equipment furnished have a manufacturer's warranty covering defects in assembly, fabrication, and materials for a minimum of three years.

SUBARTICLE 700-6.2.4 is deleted and the following substituted:

700-6.2.4 Electrical Specifications: Provide equipment that operates on solar power or a nominal voltage of 120 V_{AC}. If the device requires operating voltages of less than 120 V_{AC}, supply the appropriate voltage converter. Solar powered beacon systems must be designed to provide 10 days of continuous operation without sunlight and must automatically charge batteries and prevent overcharging and over-discharging. Solar powered systems must include a charge indicator ~~and AC/DC battery charger~~.

HIGHWAY SIGNING.

(REV 6-7-21)

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700-5.2 Material: EWS, EGS, ERS, ESFS, and ground mounted BOS must allow attachment to vertical and horizontal support structures as part of a single or double sign post configuration. Bolts must be used for load bearing attachments.

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Batteries must be capable of providing 10 days of continuous operation without sunlight. Charging system must use a solar charge controller with temperature compensation. The system must provide for automatic battery charging, overcharge protection, and have indications that display current status and faults.

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The EWS must detect when the posted speed is exceeded by one mph and then activate the alert. When the alert is activated, the display shall be able to flash. When no advancing traffic is detected, the display must be blank. The speed detector must not activate alerts for vehicles outside the display cone of vision.

The speed detector must meet the requirements of FCC Title 47, Part 90 and not require an FCC operating license. The speed detector must operate on 10.8 to 16.6 V_{DC} and draw less than three amperes. The EWS must monitor and display the speed of approaching traffic only. The EWS detector must be able to accurately detect and determine the speed of approaching vehicles. The EWS must be capable of measuring and displaying speeds of approaching traffic only between 10 and 99 mph with an accuracy of plus or minus one mph, 1,000 feet in advance of the sign.

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700-5.2.9 Electronic Regulatory Signs (ERS): The ERS must be designed to give notice of traffic laws or regulations, such as the posted speed limit. ERS used for variable speed limit (VSL) applications must be able to display speed limits from 5-70 mph in five mph increments and mimic the physical appearance of a static regulatory speed limit sign as shown in the MUTCD and SHS. ERS for VSL applications shall use black characters on a white

background. ERS for VSL applications must log the time and date of any speed limit change to internal non-volatile memory. The log must be able to record a minimum of 1,000 events in a first-in, first-out fashion.

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700-5.2.9.3 Configuration and Management Requirements for VSL

ERS: Ensure that ERS for VSL applications can be managed remotely from a TMC or managed locally using a laptop computer. Ensure that the TMC or a laptop computer can be used to remotely reset VSL sign controllers. Ensure that ERS for VSL applications log and report status, errors, and failures, including data transmission errors, receipt of invalid data, communication failure recoveries, alternating current power failures, power recoveries, display errors, fan and airflow status, temperature status, power supply status, and information on the operational status of the temperature, photocell, airflow, humidity, and LED power supply sensors.

Ensure that the sign controller is addressable through an Ethernet communication network using software that complies with the NTCIP requirements published online by the Department's Transportation Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory (TERL) at: <https://www.fdot.gov/traffic/>. Ensure that the sign implements any NTCIP standards required to achieve interoperability and interchangeability. Ensure that any additional objects implemented by the software do not interfere with the standard operation of any mandatory objects. ERS must be compatible with the Department's SunGuide® software.

700-5.2.9.4 ERS Battery Backup System: AC powered signs must include a battery backup system that maintains full operation of the sign for a minimum of two hours in the event of utility power loss. Operation on battery backup can have no visible effect on the appearance of the display.

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requirements of FCC Part 90 and not require an FCC operating license. The speed detector must operate on 10.8 to 16.6 V_{DC}. The ESFS must be capable of measuring speeds of approaching traffic between 10 and 99 mph with an accuracy of plus or minus one mph, 1,000 feet in advance of the sign.

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700-5.2.13 Warranty: Ensure that the EDS systems and equipment furnished have a manufacturer's warranty covering defects in assembly, fabrication, and materials for a minimum of three years.

SUBARTICLE 700-6.2.4 is deleted and the following substituted:

700-6.2.4 Electrical Specifications: Provide equipment that operates on solar power or a nominal voltage of 120 V_{AC}. If the device requires operating voltages of less than 120 V_{AC}, supply the appropriate voltage converter. Solar powered beacon systems must be designed to provide 10 days of continuous operation without sunlight and must automatically charge batteries and prevent overcharging and over-discharging. Solar powered systems must include a charge indicator.