



Florida Department of Transportation

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ROADWAY DESIGN BULLETIN 10-11

DATE: October 11, 2010

TO: District Design Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers and District Safety Engineers

FROM: David C. O'Hagan, PE, State Roadway Design Engineer

COPIES: David Sadler, Tim Lattner, Robert Robertson, Duane Brautigam, Mark Wilson, Chris Richter (FHWA)

SUBJECT: Electronic Display Signs

The January 2011 Specification Workbook will include revisions to Section 700 that address electronic display signs. The Minimum Specifications for Traffic Control Signal Devices also has a new Section A700 which will address the electronic components for these signs. Electronic Display Signs that are mounted on mast arms or overhead structures are exempt from the following requirements.

Highway safety features within the clear zone, such as breakaway sign supports must demonstrate acceptable crashworthy performance to be accepted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for use on the National Highway System (NHS). Typically the Department has only allowed safety features which have been crash tested or have acceptance letters from FHWA's Office of Engineering.

Since electronic display signs are not usually marketed and sold as a complete assembly, there is typically no crash testing data associated with these devices. Due to the number of variables on how these signs can be installed, manufacturers are reluctant to make the investment in pursuing crash acceptance letters.

Until such time that a procedure for determining acceptable crashworthy performance can be established, the following criteria should be followed when specifying electronic display signs.

- Ground mounted signs shall be installed outside the clear zone.
- Ground mounted signs may be installed within the clear zone if they are protected by existing guardrail or barrier wall. Additional guardrail shall not be installed to install signs within the clear zone.

Payment for electronic display signs will be made under pay item 700-89-ABC, effective with projects let January 1, 2011.