276 Outdoor Advertising Signs

276.1 General

This chapter provides the criteria and requirements for outdoor advertising signs.

Generally, any outdoor advertising sign structure requires a permit from the FDOT. A legally-erected or permitted sign establishes a protected view zone in which no plantings may encroach on the driver's line of site of the sign. When a landscape project is within or near the limits of a view zone, the landscape architect will notify the sign owner in writing (email correspondence is acceptable).

276.1.1 View Zones

In accordance with ***Chapter 479, Florida Statutes***, the view zone begins at a point on the edge of pavement perpendicular to the nearest edge of the sign facing and continues in the direction of approaching traffic for a distance of:

- 350 feet for posted speed limits of 35 mph or less, or
- 500 feet for posted speed limits over 35 mph.

An alternate view zone is created by shifting the starting point along the edge of roadway and then adding the distances stated above. The alternate view zone can be established via the original permit application, vegetation management permit, or by written agreement (email correspondence is acceptable) between the Department and the sign owner.

Use the ***Outdoor Advertising Database*** located on the ***Outdoor Advertising*** website to verify the permit status of permitted outdoor advertising signs located within 1,000 feet of the project limits. Search the database by county and roadway section ID to make sure all permitted signs are identified. Some permitted signs may not be erected or visible at the time of design but still have valid view zones.

The database provides pertinent information for erected signs, including:

- Permit status (active, voided, revoked, canceled, or expired)
- View zone requirements (by statute, or alternate view agreement)
- Approved Vegetation Management Permit

For signs with a permit status of "revoked", "cancelled", or "expired", contact the State Outdoor Advertising Administrator (identified on the Outdoor Advertising website) to determine if the view zone is still valid.

276.1.2 Vegetation Management Permit

An approved ***Vegetation Management Permit Application*** allows the owner to alter, remove or install vegetation within the Department's right of way. This application may also establish an alternate view zone. The activities granted to the owner via permit may have a significant bearing on the proposed landscape project.