

Transportation & Public Facilities

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Ongoing Information

Posting Political Campaign Signs

| [Press Release: DOT&PF Notifies Campaigns of Sign Encroachment](#) |

Another political campaign season is approaching and there is frequently a proliferation of political message signs being placed in or near State highway rights-of-way. These are sections of State roadway where political campaign signs are prohibited. Each election cycle, signs that find their way into State rights-of-way and must be removed as mandated by State and federal law.

In many instances, candidates and their volunteers simply do not realize where rights-of-way are located. In other situations, sign placement or clusters of signs near busy roadways or intersections are considered traffic hazards because they diminish a driver's sight distance.

Knowing that campaign advertising is highly important, and expensive, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities would like to provide you with these sign posting guidelines.

Explained below are two sections of Alaska Statute pertaining to sign posting/advertising in rights-of-way:

1. Campaign signs placed within the State's road and highway rights-of-way are deemed unauthorized encroachments under AS 19.25.200 – 19.25.250 and will be removed by DOT crews without notification. Vehicles parked in rights-of-way that are used to display political advertisements are also prohibited and subject to removal. Political campaign signs are considered outdoor advertising.

2. AS 19.25.105(a) states, "Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way..." This section deals with advertising outside the corridor, but also addresses advertising that maybe placed within the corridor on bus benches or trash receptacles. If the sign is on private property, DOT must provide a 30-day written notice of removal to the sign owner and property owner.

3. A list of State roads and highways in your region that are affected by rights of way laws are available online at:

Central Region

www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/assets/pdf/fedaidhwys/cr_routename.pdf

Northern Region

www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/assets/pdf/fedaidhwys/nr_routename.pdf

Southeast Region

www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/assets/pdf/fedaidhwys/se_routename.pdf

The following web link will take you to a site that answers

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/comm/pressbox/political_signs.shtml

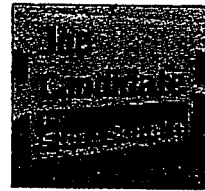
10/2/2007

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AS 19.25-105 limitations of outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices

(a) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state except the following:

(1) directional and other official signs and notices which include, but are not limited to, signs and notices pertaining to natural wonders, scenic and historic attractions, which are required or authorized by law, and which shall conform to federal standards for interstate and primary systems;

(2) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property upon which they are located or advertising activities conducted on the property;

(3) signs determined by the state, subject to concurrence of the United States Department of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm structures, or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance, the preservation of which would be consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

(4) directional signs and notices pertaining to schools;

(5) advertising on bus benches or bus shelters, and adjacent trash receptacles, if the state determines that the advertising conforms to local, state, and federal standards for interstate and primary highways.

(6) *[Repealed, Sec. 4 1998 Ballot Measure No. 5].*

(b) *[Repealed, Sec. 21 ch 94 SLA 1980].*

(c) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained beyond 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of the main traveled way of the interstate, primary, or secondary highways in this state with the purpose of their message being read from that travel way except those outdoor advertising signs, displays, or devices allowed under (a) of this section.

(d) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within the right-of-way of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway except that outdoor advertising

(1) on bus benches and bus shelters, and adjacent trash receptacles, located within the right-of-way under the authority of a permit issued under AS 19.25.200 is allowed if the bus benches or bus shelters are located within a borough or unified municipality and the buses that stop at that location operate during the entire year; or

(2) present in the right-of-way on January 1, 2005, may remain, subject only to removals required by federal highway funding requirements imposed on the state by federal law, until or unless an encroachment permit for the outdoor advertising is denied under AS 19.25.200(c).

DATE

Candidates

Dear Candidate:

Another political campaign season has started and there is frequently a proliferation of political message signs being placed in or near State highway rights-of-way. These are sections of State roadway where political campaign signs are prohibited. Signs that find their way into State rights-of-way must be removed as mandated by state and federal law.

In many instances, candidates and their volunteers simply do not realize where rights-of-way are located. Signs placement or clustering of signs near busy roadways or intersections can cause traffic hazards because they diminish a driver's sight distance.

Knowing that campaign advertising is highly important, and expensive, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities would like to provide you with these sign posting guidelines.

Explained below are two sections of Alaska Statute pertaining to sign posting/advertising in rights-of-way:

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2. AS 19.25.105(a) states, "Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way..." This section of the statute deals with advertising outside the corridor. If the sign is on private property but within 660 feet of the state's right-of-way, DOT&PF will provide a 30-day written notice of removal to the sign owner and property owner.

A list of State roads and highways in your region that are affected by rights of way laws are available online at:

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/assets/wfifa/dalchwa/se_routerame.pdf
THIS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED AND PROVIDES REGION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The following web link will take you to a site that answers questions about the State's rights-of-way. The site also includes a listing of Federal Aid Highways, Interstate, Primary and Secondary Highways of Alaska—see the heading "Federal Aid Highways of Alaska".

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/pop_rowbrochure.shtml

"Providing for the movement of people and goods and the delivery of state services."

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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For Immediate Release: July 15, 2004

No. 04-2538

DOT&PF Notifies Campaigns Of Sign Encroachment

(Juneau) – The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has recently sent letters to all candidates for public office in the upcoming primary and general elections, alerting campaigns of state laws prohibiting the placement of signs inside or within 660 feet of state highway rights-of-way.

The law requires that signs placed within the state's right-of-way be removed immediately. Those placed on private land within 660 feet of the right-of-way are considered outdoor advertising and have to be removed after 30-day notice is provided to the campaign and the property owner.

"We are expecting a typical campaign season, but wanted to make sure every candidate is aware of the rules regarding sign placement along Alaska's highways," said DOT&PF Commissioner Mike Barton. "Candidates make a significant investment in their signs, and should take the time to ensure their volunteers understand where signs can be erected, as well as what the law requires when they are put up in or near state right-of-way. Failure to observe these requirements could jeopardize Alaska's federal highway funding."

In addition to signs, vehicles parked in the right-of-way for the purpose of displaying campaign signs are also subject to removal. Barton noted that often campaign workers are simply unaware of the prohibition, or may not realize where the right-of-way begins and ends. In other instances, signs or clusters of signs at busy intersections may present a traffic hazard, reducing drivers' sight distance.

The law provides that signs that are removed by DOT&PF can be retrieved by the campaigns at a cost of \$50 per sign. The cost of towing an illegally parked vehicle will be charged to the vehicle's owner.

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For more information on state highway routes covered by state and federal laws prohibiting sign placement, please visit:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/assets/pdf/fedaidhwys/>