

Section 2D.3

GATEWAYS INTERSTATE AND NON-INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

2D.3.1 DEFINITIONS

Gateways: All gateways installed on state right-of-way require a permit signed by the local entity; this includes signs installed under a construction project. Typically these signs do not include a standard roadway sign but do include a wood or masonry non-standard sign structure with legend incorporated into some type of landscaping. Gateways may also include lighting and flagpoles and are not considered traffic control devices.

2D.3.2 LEGAL

Revised Statute 32:236 states that privately owned signs on public rights of way are prohibited with exceptions from the authority of municipalities and Department.

Revised Statute 32:235 requires that local governments must have Department approval to install signs in the highway right-of-way.

Revised Statute 48:347 gives the Department the authority to remove objects, including unapproved signs from the highway right-of-way.

LAC 70:701 provides criteria for the permitting of flagpoles within the highway right-of-way.

LAC 70:117 provides criteria for the permitting of landscaping within the highway right-of-way.

Figures 2-1 thru 2-4 of the DOTD Road Design Manual establishes minimum design standards, which include minimum horizontal clearance for various design speeds, and shoulder and curb combinations.

This policy rescinds all previous policy memorandums and EDSM on this issue.

2D.3.3 CRITERIA FOR PLACING SIGNS

Un-incorporated communities, neighborhoods, etc. shall have a letter of concurrence from the parish government concurring with the name and location of the signs.

A. Gateways on Controlled Access Routes:

With proper permits, gateways may be placed on controlled access routes for communities, which have an incorporated government and a population of at least 10,000 residents.

B. Gateways on Non-Controlled Access Routes:

With proper permits, gateways may be placed on non-controlled access routes for communities. These permits shall be signed by a local authority.

2D.3.4 PERMITS

Only local governments will be permitted to install and maintain gateways in accordance with the provision of the Gateway Sign Permit form. All costs associated with the installation and maintenance of permitted signs shall be borne by the local government.

Signs to be placed within the control of access of the Interstate shall require approval of the FHWA prior to final permit approval.

A permit request form for a Gateway Sign permit may be sent to the District Office to which the requested sign would belong.

To obtain a Gateway Sign permit:

1. A Permit Request Form for a Gateway Sign must be signed by an official of the local government requesting the sign.
2. The signs shall be installed on a breakaway support if within the clear zone.
3. The following must be attached to the request:
 - a. A map illustrating where the signs will be placed
 - b. If incorporated: A legal copy of the limits of corporation showing the city or town limits
 - c. If not incorporated: A signed document by the parish government agreeing to the sign placements at the boundaries
 - d. Shop drawings illustrating the size of sign, lettering height, font, legend, and type of material (sheeting) to be used
 - e. Lighting plan if applicable
 - f. Landscaping plan if applicable

2D.3.5 SIGN DESIGN

Signs installed with Gateways

Signs installed with Gateways are not standard highway signs but may contain messages and shall be designed as follows:

1. Legends shall be made with white reflective sheeting or illuminated by appropriately placed spotlights or streetlights. Legends, which are illuminated, may be any color.
2. Gateways should be placed outside of the clear zone. If not possible, the gateway signs within the clear zone shall be installed on breakaway supports or shall be installed behind existing guardrail. Breakaway posts shall be AASHTO approved.
3. Gateways shall contain no commercial advertising.
4. Minimum letter heights for capital letters are as shown below for all messages outside of a logo:
 - a. two lane roadways - 4 to 6 inches
 - b. multilane roadways, 45 mph or less - 4 to 6 inches
 - c. multilane roadways, 50 mph or greater – 6 to 8 inches
 - d. control of access roadways – 8 to 13 inches

2D.3.6 APPROVAL

Gateway signs shall be recommended by the District Traffic Operations Engineer and approved by the Traffic Engineering Management Administrator along with FHWA if applicable.

2D.3.7 LOCATION AND PLACEMENT

Gateways are to be placed at the official corporate limits or as close as possible. Un-incorporated communities shall have a letter of concurrence from the parish government concurring with the name and location of the signs. Location of each sign shall be shown on the permit form and approved by the District Traffic Operations Engineer.

2D.3.8 DOCUMENTATION

The District Traffic Operations Engineer may consider documenting the location of the community signs by either Control Section – Logmile or GPS coordinates.

2D.3.9 EXAMPLES GATEWAYS INSTALLED BY PERMIT

Figure 2D.3.1 Example of a Non-Interstate Gateway Installed by Permit



Note:

The wood sign within clear zone on 6" x 6" breakaway wood posts with the legend: "Welcome to St. Francisville, Audubon Pilgrimage, Third Weekend in March."

Figure 2D.3.2 Example of a Non-Interstate Gateway Installed by Permit



Note:

The brick sign is located in median (outside of clear zone) with lights and landscaping with the legend: "Welcome to Historic Natchitoches."

Figure 2D.3.3 Example of an Interstate Gateway Installed by Permit



Note:

The sign is a brick sign located in an interchange (outside of clear zone) with flagpoles, lights, and landscaping with the legend: "Welcome to Shreveport Bossier."