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STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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**TO:** All Users of the Delaware Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices  
**FROM:** Mark Luszcz, P.E., P.T.O.E. *ML*  
Chief Traffic Engineer  
**DATE:** October 12, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs

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Section 1A.07 of the Delaware Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (DE MUTCD Revision 3) states:

**Option:**

01A (DE Revision) With approval of the Delaware Department of Transportation Chief Engineer, traffic control devices and applications that do not comply with one or more standard statements in this manual may be used, if it has been determined based on engineering judgment that such devices/applications follow the basic precepts of traffic control devices (incorporating design elements that promote the ability of the road user to perceive, comprehend, and react as intended) and are determined to be in the best interests of Delaware's road users.

Accordingly, DelDOT is providing the following Option, Guidance, Standard and Support statements regarding Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs:

**Support:**

01 Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs are intended to recognize an individual or group who install and maintain landscaping within the highway right-of-way. The signs are beneficial in that they promote an aesthetic roadside and median environment and reduce DelDOT's maintenance efforts and costs.

02 Based on both the Federal and DE MUTCDs, these signs are considered "Acknowledgement Signs" and fall under the requirements of Section 2H.08. As the signs do not regulate, warn, or guide traffic, they are not traffic control devices and should not be included in the federal or DE MUTCDs. As such, DelDOT establishes the following standards and options regarding Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs, which generally allows sponsoring entities more flexibility than the federal and DE MUTCDs.

**Standard:**

03 Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs shall not be installed in a position where they would obscure the road users' view of other traffic control devices.

04 Landscaping Acknowledgment Signs shall not be installed at any of the following locations:



- A. On the front or back of, adjacent to, or around any other traffic control device, including traffic signs, highway traffic signals, and changeable message signs;
- B. On the front or back of, adjacent to, or around the supports or structures of other traffic control devices, or bridge piers;
- C. At any location that would block a travel lane, sidewalk, or bicycle path; or
- D. At key decision points where a road user's attention is more appropriately focused on other traffic control devices, roadway geometry, or traffic conditions.

**05 Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs shall not be offensive, include vulgar language, or political messages. Landscaping Acknowledgement Sign designs shall be approved by the DelDOT Outdoor Advertising Office prior to installation. The sign designs shall meet the following requirements:**

- A. Neither the sign design nor the sponsor acknowledgment logo shall contain any contact information, directions, telephone numbers, or Internet addresses, including domain names and uniform resource locators (URL);
- B. The entire sign display area shall not exceed 4 square feet;
- C. The sign shall not contain any messages, lights, symbols, or trademarks that resemble any official traffic control devices;
- D. The sign shall not contain any external or internal illumination, light-emitting diodes, luminous tubing, fiber optics, luminescent panels, or other flashing, moving, or animated features; and
- E. The sign shall not distract from official traffic control messages such as regulatory, warning, or guidance messages.

Option:

06 Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs may include the landscaping sponsor's (individual, group, company, etc.) name, logo, and other design features at the discretion of the sponsor, subject to Standard 05 above. The signs may use any type, size, and color of font at the discretion of the sponsor.

Standard:

**07 Landscaping Acknowledgement Signs shall meet the following material and installation criteria:**

- A. Maximum bottom of sign height on post above grade of 1 foot;
- B. Sign material of wood;
- C. Post depth below grade of 5 feet;
- D. Post material of pressure treated wood;
- E. No vinyl sleeves or similar on posts;
- F. Post dimension of 4" x 4" or less; and
- G. Panel to be bolted to the post.

Option:

08 Other sign material or post sizes and materials may be used with the approval of the Department.

  
Concurred By: Robert McCleary  
Chief Engineer