Notification of width or height restrictions on Iowa primary highways – Utility Requirements

To: Utility companies

Subject: Notification of width or height restrictions on Iowa primary highways

Date: June 4, 2020

In accordance with the stipulations on all Utility Accommodation permits, utilities may not obstruct or close primary highways without prior consent of the Iowa DOT, except in emergency situations.

A 10-day notice is required for any lane restriction (width or height) on a primary highway before the work is started. If a 10-day notice is not given, Iowa DOT Motor Carrier Services (MCS) will have to check for permitted loads on those routes for possible conflicts and work with the permit holders and DOT Maintenance Bureau to resolve the conflicts. In emergency situations, notification should be provided as soon as possible.

Even short-term partial closures can have a significant impact on the operation of highway system. The Iowa DOT is working hard to improve the accuracy of the information provided by the Iowa 511 traveler information system, (http://511ia.org/) but we need your help. Besides providing real-time information to the traveling public, this system is also used by the Iowa DOT to route oversize loads. Having accurate information on the location, extent and duration of lane restrictions is critical for their routing processes.

Before setting up a lane closure or any vertical/horizontal restriction on a primary highway, call your local Iowa DOT maintenance garage, as shown on the Iowa DOT Districts web page, http://www.iowadot.gov/districts/contacts.html to discuss timing and date of the closure/restriction. Once the maintenance garage concurs with the timing and date, it is your responsibility to call the Iowa DOT Traffic Management Center (TMC) at (515-237-3300). The TMC will add the information to the 511 system, which generates an automatic message to (MCS) and the District office.
This notification does not replace the need for a permit application. Permits are required for utility accommodation and for any and all work on right of way, except emergency work.

When providing notice to the Iowa DOT, you will need to supply detailed information about the closure (https://iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/f/Cars511RequestForm).

It is advised you have this information available when you call the TMC.

If you have any questions, please do not reply to this note. Instead, you may contact either your local Iowa DOT maintenance garage or the TMC.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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