

Purpose of Signing

Traffic and Safety Manual
Chapter 2
Signing

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Traffic signs are traffic control devices and are used to promote highway safety and efficiency by providing regulation, warning, and guidance information for roadway users. Signs do not function alone as an individual sign but function in combination to create a complete signing system.

To be effective a traffic sign should meet five basic principles:

- Fulfill a need,
- Command attention,
- Convey a clear, simple meaning,
- Command respect from road users, and
- Give adequate time for proper response.

Signs should only be used where justified by facts and field studies. Signs are essential where special regulations apply, or where hazards are not self-evident. Signs also provide information for guidance, such as highway routes, directions, destinations, and points of interest.