

POLITICAL BOUNDARY/IDENTIFICATION

Policy:

Interstates/Freeways/Conventional (Other) State Highways: There are four types of political boundary/identification signs available for use on all state highways, and one identification plaque available for use on interstates and freeways. Only Type 1 signs will be allowed at the boundaries of those communities that install Type 3 or Type 4 signs away from their boundaries.

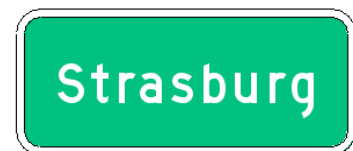
The location of an existing traffic control device, or the need for a new device, shall take precedence over the location of a political boundary/identification sign, either existing or proposed.

Relocation and/or removal of sign(s) as a result of highway improvements projects, such as roadway widening, shall be the responsibility of the local government. Signs not relocated by the entity shall be removed by CDOT, and the entity shall be billed accordingly.

Signs shall be placed outside the clear zone unless the sign is of a breakaway design or placed behind guardrail. Final locations of signs shall be determined by CDOT with input from the entity. For safety reasons, signs shall not be located in the median of a freeway or expressway except in areas where roadways are divided by parks or extremely wide open areas (100+ feet). Sign supports shall be of approved breakaway design unless protected by guardrail as required by AASHTO "Guide for Selecting, Locating and Designing Traffic Barriers." The lease or license requirements of CDOT shall be satisfied before customized signs may be installed.

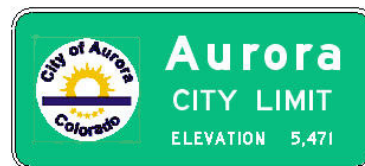
TYPE 1 signs are the commonly used boundary signs described in Section 2H.02 of the 2009 MUTCD and provided/maintained by CDOT:

Example TYPE 1 Signs:



TYPE 2 signs are identical to **TYPE 1** signs in design with the addition of an official "logo" and/or "slogan". At the request of the local government, CDOT will permit the installation of **TYPE 2** signs in lieu of **TYPE 1** signs. **TYPE 2** signs will be provided and maintained by the local government and must meet CDOT standards for design and mounting.

Example TYPE 2 Signs:



TYPE 3 signs are the "decorative" political boundary/identification signs provided by local governments and installed within the CDOT right of way. In general, **TYPE 3** signs must be

designed in good taste, sponsored by a local government, accompanied by a resolution from the local governing body, and adhere to the guidelines shown in Table 1 on page 23.

If located within the “clear zone”, mounting must be located behind guardrail and meet CDOT breakaway sign standards. Otherwise, the sign must be located outside the “clear zone” so as to not present a collision hazard to errant vehicles. **TYPE 3** signs are provided, installed, powered, and maintained by the local government at no cost to CDOT. **TYPE 3** signs are placed in lieu of standard **TYPE 1** signs except in those circumstances where a **TYPE 3** sign is constructed a substantial distance from the actual political boundary.

Example TYPE 3 Signs:



TYPE 4 signs are the “monument-like” political boundary/identification markers provided by local governments and installed within CDOT right of way.

Installation of **TYPE 4** signs precludes the installation of boundary signs outside the right-of-way. If the entity has an “official sign”, this precludes installation of **TYPE 4** signs.

In general, **TYPE 4** signs must be designed in good taste sponsored by a local government, accompanied by a resolution from the local governing body, and adhere to the guidelines shown in **Table 1** on page 23.

Example TYPE 4 Signs:



The guidelines for **TYPE 3** and **TYPE 4** signs are shown below in **Table 1**:

Table 1

Requirements	Type 3	Type 4
All sign requests must be in writing to Region Traffic Engineer (or Designee).	■	■
The sign layout shall consist of four sets of detailed plans showing sign face, post(s) [if applicable], lettering, construction details, dimensions (including distance from edge of paved shoulder, location and colors, etc.). The four sets of the sign layout and the sign location (with dimensions shown from the edge of asphalt), along with a permit application, shall be submitted to CDOT for review and comment.	■	■
All locations of the signing shall be determined by CDOT with input from the entity. Final locations of the signs shall be determined by CDOT so that the signs are outside the clear zone, unless the sign is located behind guardrail.	■	■
One boundary sign shall be placed in each direction of each state highway that crosses the boundary of the entity on the right-hand side of the roadway it faces.	■	■
The signs shall be located within ¼ mile of the entity's boundary, and the first intersection/interchange encountered after passing the sign must lead to that entity.		■
Maximum area of the sign face.	32 SF	150 SF
No commercial logos or advertising is allowed on the signs or support, including acknowledgements or sponsorship.	■	■
No personal acknowledgements to the mayor, councilors, etc. are allowed on signs or supports.	■	■
Signs shall include neutral colors only and no part of the sign shall have the appearance of existing traffic control devices.	■	■
Signs to be erected on 4"X4" wooden post(s), maximum, coated with oil-based enamel paint.	■	
All sign posts shall be directly buried 36 inches into the ground, but not in concrete.	■	
Bottom of sign shall be set at minimum height of 18 inches above ground.	■	
Sign lighting shall be a white source 3000K Correlated Colorado Temperature or less. A light aimed upwards shall have less than 3,200 initial luminaire lumens. A light with 3,200 initial luminaire lumens shall be aimed downwards and have a maximum upright rating of U0. Refer to CDOT Lighting Design Guidelines Sign Lighting Section for more information.	■	■
All installation, power service, and maintenance of signs shall be performed by the local entity. A minimum radius of 20 feet around the sign and surrounding area shall also be maintained (grass-mowed, etc.) by the local entity.	■	■
All electrical lines shall be direct burial	■	■
Signs shall be officially authorized by local ordinance or resolution.	■	■
Any future relocation and/or removal of the signs and power due to roadway improvements shall be the responsibility of the entity.	■	■
No access from interstate/freeway will be allowed for installation	■	■

Background:

Signing for incorporated city and town boundaries and county lines is provided in both rural and urban areas principally as a means of identifying changes in responsibility for certain governmental-related activities, such as law enforcement and emergency response. Secondly, such signing provides travelers with destination information concerning Colorado's major cities and towns.

In rural areas, “boundary” signing for unincorporated towns may be appropriate to supplement otherwise necessary directional signing and indicate to interstate/intrastate travelers that they have reached an intermediate destination. To qualify for “boundary” signing, unincorporated rural towns must have an official United States Post Office and be designated on an official state map published by CDOT.

In urban areas, the large number of unincorporated subdivisions, housing developments and business “parks” makes it impossible to provide signing for all such areas. Additionally, in urban areas, interchanges and intersections are identified by cross-street names as this information is significantly more useful to travelers given the large number of potential destinations. Boundary signing for unincorporated places in urban areas provides little information to travelers and as such, shall not be installed. Typically, subdivisions, housing developments and business “parks” are identified by on premise signing provided by the developer and installed in accordance with state and federal outdoor advertising rules and regulations. Information pertaining to on premise identification signing is available from the CDOT Outdoor Advertising Manager.