



Roadside Signs

“Sign, sign, everywhere a sign...do this, don’t do that, can’t you read the sign.”¹

Traffic control signs play an important role in ensuring you get to your destination safely. They provide guidance and give warning to roadway users.

Illegally placed signs compete with important traffic control signs for driver attention. They block driver visibility and pedestrian access. They damage irrigation systems in landscaped areas. And they are a visual blight on the landscape.

Garage sale, real estate, political campaign, and other temporary signs are **not allowed** within the county **road right-of-way** outside of cities. That includes the ditches, shoulders and sidewalks – basically all the area between the utility poles on both sides of the road. They are also prohibited on traffic signposts, utility poles and signal cabinets.



Some temporary signs are allowed on **private property** with the **property owner's permission**. But they must comply with Section 414-5.1 of the [Community Development Code](#).

What can you do about illegal roadside signs?

- Form an [Adopt-a-Road](#) volunteer group and keep your adopted road free of illegal signs.
- Property owners can remove illegal signs from the right-of-way adjacent to their property.
- Report problem locations to 503-846-ROAD (846-7623) or lutops@co.washington.or.us. County road crews will remove illegal roadside signs next time they are working in the area.

Where can you find more information about sign regulations?

- Oregon law covers unauthorized signs along county roads outside of cities in [ORS 368.942](#) through 368.960. “...No person may paste, paint, brand or in any manner whatever place or attach to any building, fence, gate, bridge, tree, rock, board, structure or anything whatever within the limits of the right of way of any county road any written, printed or painted advertisement, bill, notice, sign, picture, card or poster...” City sign regulations apply on county roads inside a city.
- Washington County Resolution and Order 77-76 as amended by 98-197 states that “...The following items will not be allowed in the county road right-of-way [outside of incorporated cities]: Signs, without regard to content, except those expressly permitted by law or authorized by the road authority. Examples of prohibited signs include real estate, garage sale, campaign and vendor signs.”
- Washington County Community Development Code Section 414-5.1 allows Temporary Signs “...on private property, not within any dedicated right-of-way...” Other conditions apply.
- For city sign regulations, check with the [city road agency](#). For state highway temporary sign regulations, check with [Oregon Department of Transportation](#).

For more information, please call **503-846-ROAD** (846-7623) or e-mail lutops@co.washington.or.us

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Washington County is committed to planning, building and maintaining a great transportation system, ensuring the safety of all roadway users, and to operating the county roadway system in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.

¹ “Signs” © Five Man Electrical Band

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