

CITY OF WOODLAND COUNCIL POLICIES

CHAPTER 3 – PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICY 3-4 – SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY POLICY

PURPOSE AND GOAL

The purpose of this policy is to establish how the city will implement an assessment or management method, or combination of methods, to meet the minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements in the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD).

Substantial conformance with the MN MUTCD is achieved by having a method in place to maintain minimum retroreflectivity levels. Conformance does not require or guarantee that every individual sign in the city will meet or exceed the minimum retroreflective levels at every point in time.

The goal of this policy is to improve public safety on the city's streets and roads and prioritize the city's limited resources to replace signs.

APPLICABLE SIGNS

This policy applies to all regulatory, warning, and guide signs as set forth in the MN MUTCD.

SIGN INVENTORY

To meet the city's goal of maintaining sign retroreflectivity above certain levels, the city will maintain a sign inventory of all new or replacement signs installed after the effective date of this policy. The inventory shall indicate the type of sign, the location of the sign, the expected life of the sign, sign replacement dates, and any maintenance performed on the sign.

REMOVAL OF SIGNS

In recognition of the fact that excess road signs have been shown to reduce the effectiveness of signage, as well as impose an unnecessary financial burden on road authorities, it is the city's policy to remove signs determined to be unnecessary for safety purposes and which are not required to comply with an applicable state or federal statute or regulation. The removal of signs shall be based on an engineering study and the MN MUTCD.

APPROVED SIGN EVALUATION METHOD

- **Expected Sign Life.** The installation date is labeled or recorded when a sign is installed, so that the age of any given sign is known. The age of the sign is compared to the expected sign life. The expected sign life is based on the experience of sign

retroreflectivity degradation in the City. Signs older than the expected life will be replaced.

SIGN REPLACEMENT

The City hereby establishes the following priority order in which road signs will be replaced:

- First priority shall be given to replacing all signs determined not to meet applicable retroreflectivity standards. Top priority shall also be given to replacing missing or damaged signs determined to be of a priority for safety purposes.
- Second priority shall be given to signs determined to be marginal in their retroreflectivity evaluation.
- Third priority shall be given to all remaining signs as they come to the end of their anticipated service life, become damaged, etc.

In addition, within each category above, further priority shall be given to warning and regulatory signs on roads with higher vehicle usage.

After the initial replacement of signs as provided for in this Article or the installation of new signs, the City shall, for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the MN MUTCD, maintain minimum retroreflectivity standards, as budgetary factors allow, by replacing signs as they reach the end of the latter of their (a) warranty period; (b) expected life expectancy for the sheeting material used on the sign; or (c) expected life as determined by the City Council.

Damaged, stolen, or missing signs may be replaced as needed.

MODIFICATION AND DEVIATION FROM POLICY

The City reserves the right to modify this Sign Retroreflectivity Policy at any time if deemed to be in the best interests of the City based on safety, social, political and economic considerations.

The City Engineer, at the direction of the City Council, may authorize a deviation from the implementation of this policy in regard to a particular sign when deemed to be in the best interests of the City based on safety, social, political and economic considerations. Such deviation shall be documented including the reason for the deviation and other information supporting the deviation.