

SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION No. 2012-41

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SOCORRO COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
RETRO-REFLECTIVITY SIGN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

WHEREAS, the Socorro County Road Department is seeking to establish a policy for Sign Maintenance in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 66-7-103 (1978) provides that “[l]ocal authorities in their respective jurisdiction shall place and maintain such traffic-control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction as they may deem necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of Article 7 of Chapter 66 NMSA 1978 or local traffic ordinances or to regulate, warn or guide traffic. All such traffic-control devices hereafter erected shall conform to the state manual and specifications;” and,

WHEREAS, the Department must establish and adopt a Policy for the implementation for the maintenance and upgrade for all signage to sustain a minimum retroreflectivity as set forth by the Federal Highway Administration and published in the Uniform Traffic Control Device Manual; and,

WHEREAS, the Department is required to adopt a Policy by February, 2012; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of Socorro County, New Mexico, that this Resolution hereby establishes the Socorro County Road Department Policy for

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 14th day of February, 2012.

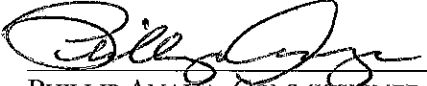
BOARD OF SOCORRO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



DANIEL P. MONETTE, CHAIR
DISTRICT IV

Absent

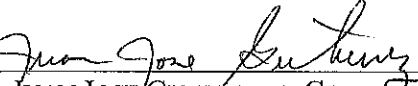
PAULINE JARAMILLO, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT I



PHILLIP ANAYA, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT III

Absent

RUMALDO J. GRIEGO, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT II

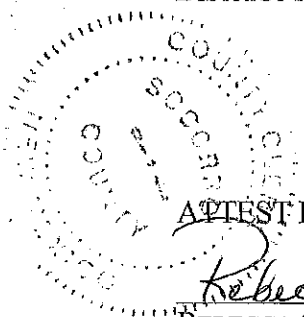


JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:



REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK



PURPOSE:

The policy outlines the procedures followed by the Socorro County Road Department for maintenance of county road signs. The County of Socorro is committed to the principle of a safe and secure transportation system. Some of the most visible safety features of our county roads are the signs that alert the traveling motorists to the conditions of the upcoming roadway. This County Road Sign Maintenance Policy will provide the method for signs to be tracked, maintained, and replaced to ensure they are in position and visible to motorists both in day time and night time.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2007, the Federal Highway Administration published an update to the 2003 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD) which required all public agencies to use an assessment or management method that is designed to maintain sign retroreflectivity at or above certain minimum levels. FHWA allowed graduated compliance dates for the implementation of this new policy. Beginning in January 2012, all agencies must have a program in place that will regularly address the new minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements. In January 2015, all agencies must comply with retroreflectivity requirements for most of their traffic signs, including red and white regulatory signs, such as STOP signs and SPEED LIMIT signs, yellow warning signs and green guide signs. By January 2018 all agencies must comply with the retroreflectivity requirement for overhead guide signs and all street name signs.

Public agencies will be in compliance with this new standard by adopting an assessment or management method and using this assessment or management method to maintain the minimum established retroreflectivity levels. A public agency would be in compliance with the new standard even if at a specific point in time there are some signs that do not meet the minimum retroreflectivity level as long as they are using their established method to maintain signs.

FHWA provide several examples of management methods that could be utilized to comply with requirements for an assessment or management method. Agencies can choose one of these methods, a combination of the methods or establish another method which would still ensure their signs are maintained to comply with new retroreflectivity requirements.

The methods provided by the FHWA are:

1. Visual Nighttime Inspection

Sign retroreflectivity is assessed by a trained inspector who conducts visual inspections of signs at night from a moving vehicle. The inspector identifies signs that do not meet the minimum retroreflectivity requirements and those signs are scheduled for replacement.

2. Measured Sign Retroreflectivity

A Retroreflectometer is used to measure retroreflectivity of each sign. Signs that do not meet the minimum retroreflectivity levels are scheduled for replacement.

3. Expected Sign Life

Signs are installed with a label showing the manufacture or installation date or a log is kept with the installation date of each sign to track the age of the sign. Signs are scheduled for replacement based on the expected sign life, which is determined from experience of sign degradation in a geographic area or the manufacturer's warranty for sign life.

4. Blanket Replacement

Signs in a corridor area or of a given type should be replaced at specified intervals. The interval for replacement is based on the shortest expected sign life for the signs in that corridor area or type based on the sign materials that have the shortest expected life.

5. Control Signs

The performance of control signs is used to determine the need for replacement of signs in the field. Control signs may be a sample of signs in a maintenance yard or a sample of signs in the field. These signs are monitored to determine the end of the retro-reflective life for the signs they are to represent. Field sign should be replaced before their representative control signs reach the minimum levels.

6. Other Methods

Other methods may be utilized if they are developed based on engineering studies.

The following signs are allowed to be excluded from the retroreflectivity maintenance guidelines:

1. Parking, Standing, and Stopping Signs (R7 and R8 series)
2. Walking, Hitchhiking, Crossing Signs (R9 series, R10-1 through 10-46)
3. Adopt a Highway Sign
4. All signs with blue or brown background
5. Bikeway Signs that are intended for exclusive used by bicyclists or pedestrians

SOCORRO COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SELECTED MANAGEMENT METHOD

The Socorro County Road Department has selected to implement the Visual Nighttime Inspection for replacement of signs. Any regulatory, warning, and guide signs will be scheduled for replacement if needed, or as budget allows.

PROCEDURES

1. Socorro County Road Department is divided into 5 districts. A sign log will be created and maintained for each district and will be established for sign replacement within that district. Each district will be scheduled for an annual Nighttime Visual Inspection. The Socorro County Road Department will budget funds to replace signs as needed or as the budget will allow.
2. The Socorro County Road Superintendent/designee will maintain a list of districts and will compile yearly information from each district that shows the number of signs replaced in each district, and the total cost of sign replacement for each district.
3. Whenever there is insufficient funding to complete the sign replacement process, a plan will be developed by the Socorro County Road Superintendent to ensure sign replacement is funded and completed the following budget year.

In many cases signs maybe replaced due to theft, vandalism, or knock downs or new signs installed and added to the sign inventory for each district. The district will continue their normal sign maintenance activities and will install new signs and maintain damaged or missing signs through the year.

4. In the future if a Retroreflectometer becomes available to borrow or to rent, the Socorro County Road Department will take the required training to use the Retroreflectometer as an alternate way to maintain our signs.