Wood Sign Posts within Highway Right-of-Way

Summary
This Bulletin is issued to inform maintenance contractors and department staff of the department’s recommended practices to be followed for the installation and maintenance of wood sign posts within the highway right-of-way.

Wood sign posts previously installed in the highway right-of-way are not required to be weakened. The department has now adopted the latest version of the Roadside Design Guide, which includes the requirement that wood posts located in the Clear Zone and with dimensions greater than 100 mm x 100 mm must be modified to meet breakaway requirements. To achieve the breakaway requirements, the post weakening features and implementation strategy described here are to be followed.

Key Changes

1. Existing wood sign posts with dimensions greater than 100 mm x 100 mm not required to be weakened.

2. All new and replacement wood sign posts with dimensions greater than 100 mm x 100 mm installed in the highway right-of-way must be weakened to meet breakaway requirements. The following post weakening features must be provided:
   - Two 38 mm diameter drilled holes centered on the post, oriented in the direction perpendicular to the highway.
   - The first hole will be located 100 mm above the ground surface and the second hole will be located 460 mm above the ground surface (360 mm above first hole).
   - Each hole should be filled with expanding Styrofoam flush with the face of the post.
   - Refer to TEB 1.81 for more information.

3. Any existing wood sign posts with dimensions larger than 100 mm x 100 mm and that are part of a multi-post sign assembly are required to be weakened if they are deemed hazardous.
   - Post weakening of hazardous posts is to meet the same requirements as new sign posts as described above.

The new recommended practices as indicated in this Bulletin are to be implemented immediately as per the usual practice.
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References
TEB 1.81

Approved:

Original signed
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2-38 mm Dia. Holes treated with an approved wood preservative.

Fill each hole with a single piece of closed cell insulation flush with face of post (e.g., expanding styrofoam). The holes do not need to be filled if pre-treated at the plant or mill site.

The orientation of the posts for the sign mounting shall be in accordance with X and Y as shown.

Holes are to be drilled perpendicular to the direction of traffic flow.

NOTE:
The breakaway feature for wood posts with cross-sectional dimensions greater than 100 mm x 100 mm is required for posts located within the clear zone and desirable for posts located outside the clear zone (within highway right-of-way).