

Street Signs

in La Plata County

Introduction from the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**:

The need for high uniform standards was recognized long ago. The American Association for State Highway and Transportation Officials published a manual for rural highways in 1927 and the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety developed and published a manual for urban streets in 1929. But the necessity for unification of the standards applicable to the different classes of road and street systems was obvious. To meet this need, a joint committee of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety developed, and published in 1935, an original edition of this Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. That committee, though changed from time to time in organization and personnel, has been in continuous existence and has contributed to periodic revisions of the Manual, including this 2000 edition. The committee's name was formally changed to the National Committee (NC) on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

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The information contained in this pamphlet will cover the regulations pertaining to street sign standards and the installation of street signs within La Plata County, Colorado.

Section 74-93 of the La Plata County Code states: “(a) All signs, signing, striping, signalization, markers, delineators, signals, and other traffic control devices shall conform to the requirements of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, as published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration. (b) In new developments, all required street name signs, speed limit signs, stop signs, and other traffic control devices are to be installed to the satisfaction of the County’s engineer and paid for by the developer. (c) Nonstandard signs or other traffic control devices are subject to the control and approval of the County’s engineer. Requests to install non-standard signs or other devices must be submitted to the county’s engineer along with data required to support the request. (LPLUS, § 4.7).”

The following excerpts are from the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**.

Introduction

Traffic control devices are all signs, signals, markings, and devices placed on, over, or adjacent to a street or highway by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

2D.1 Scope of Conventional Road Guide Design Standards

STANDARD:

Standards for Conventional Road Guide Signs prescribed herein shall apply to any road or street other than expressways, freeways, and low-speed rural road.

Option: ***Standards for Conventional Road Guide Signs may apply to low-volume rural roads.***

2D.2 Application

SUPPORT:

Guide signs are essential to direct road users along streets and highways, to inform them of intersecting routes, to direct them to cities, towns, villages, or other important destinations, to identify nearby rivers and streams, parks, forest, and historical sites, and generally to give such information as will help them along their way in the most simple, direct manner.

It is important to read Section 2A for placement, location, and other general criteria for signs.

2A.11 Sign Colors

SUPPORT:

Whenever white is specified herein as a color, it is understood to include silver-colored retroreflective coatings or elements that reflect white light.

STANDARD:

Except where otherwise specified herein for individual signs or groups of signs, guide signs on streets and highways shall have a white message on a green background. All messages, borders, and legends shall be retroreflective and all backgrounds shall be retroreflective or illuminated.

2D.38 Street Name Sign

GUIDANCE:

Street Name signs should be erected in urban areas at all street intersections regardless of other route signs that may be present and should be erected in rural areas to identify important roads not otherwise signed.

Lettering on Street Name signs should be at least 1560 mm (6 in) high in upper case letters or 150 mm (6 in) upper case letters with 110 mm (4.5 in) lower-case letters. Larger letter heights should be used for street name signs mounted overhead.

Option:

For local roads with speed limits 25 mph or less, the lettering may be a minimum of 100 mm (4 inches).

Supplementary lettering to indicate the type of street (e.g., Street, Avenue, Road, etc) or section of city (e.g., N.W.) May be in smaller lettering, at least 75mm (3 in) high. Conventional abbreviations may be used except for the street name itself.

A symbol or letter designation may be used to identify the governmental jurisdiction.

STANDARD:

The Street Name sign shall be retroreflective or illuminated to show the same shape and color day and night. The legend and background shall be of contrasting colors.

GUIDANCE:

Street Name signs should have a white legend on a green background. A border, if used, should be the same color as the legend.

In business districts and on principal arterial, Street Name signs should be placed at least on diagonally opposite corners so that they will be on the far right hand side of the intersection for traffic on the major street. **In residential areas at least one Street Name sign should be mounted at each intersection. Signs naming both streets should be erected at each intersection. They should be mounted with their faces parallel to the streets they name.**

Option:

On intersection approaches a supplemental Street Name sign may be erected separately or below an intersection-related warning sign.

GUIDANCE:

When combined with a warning sign, the color of the supplemental street name sign should be a black message on a yellow background.