# Sign Removal Guidance

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on when to remove permanent advance warning signs. This guidance applies to all signs within the work zone but, can be applied specifically to the "Road Work Ahead," "Road Work Next XX Miles," "Fines Double," and "End Road Work Signs."

In addition to providing safe passage for traffic through the work zone, traffic control devices must provide the correct message to the traveling public. To ensure traffic moves effectively and safely through the work zone, it is critical that the traffic control devices used advise, warn, and direct the traffic appropriate for the site conditions. When these signs are no longer relevant, they should be removed to reduce sign pollution and increase driver perception as well as protect the signs ability to command the driver's attention. If not removed when no longer relevant, these signs become an ambiguous source of information that can cause confusion about whether the construction zone is still in place. This leads to the sign being ignored and could lead to further confusion or conflict when the construction zone becomes active again.

**When should they be removed?**

The short answer is when they are no longer relevant. Temporary traffic control should reflect the actual work zone conditions. The MUTCD states that, "TTC devices shall be removed as soon as practical when they are no longer needed. When work is suspended for short periods of time, temporary traffic control devices that are no longer appropriate shall be removed."

Signs should be removed if the project is in winter shut down and there are no substantial hazards such as winter maintenance of a gravel surfaces, or clear zone hazards that were not able to be mitigated prior to winter shut down.

**Should I pay for sign face removal?**

Yes, in most cases group 32 in the traffic control rate schedule will be used to handle sign removal and replacement if posts are left in place. In the case of lump sum projects payment will not be made for sign removal.

**We are in winter shut down. My project is mostly complete, but we did not get it chipped. Should I leave the advanced warning signs up?**

In most cases the signs should be removed as they are no longer relevant. If traffic is traveling in its normal configuration and the speeds are not reduced, the advanced warning signs should be removed. If there are reasons for reduced construction speed limits the signs should be left up.

**Do I need to remove the posts, brackets and stubs?**

This is to be handled on a case by case basis. If a project is substantially complete and will have minimal work the next season (such as seal and cover, striping, or other activities that are not sustainably longer

than 3 days) the post stub and brackets should be removed. The following season portables can be utilized to display the proper traffic control signs.

If your work zone signage is mounted on concrete barrier rail, the post and bracket should be removed. This will enable maintenance to remove snow in close proximity to the barrier rail. If these posts and brackets are left up, they could cause damage to snow removal equipment. Coordinate with local maintenance forces to identify posts that may need to be removed to mitigate snow removal conflicts.

If posts are removed with the anticipation of reinstallation the following year, ensure the stubs are well marked as they can cause damage to mowing equipment.

If the work changes and the permanent post are no longer needed, the post, stub and bracket need to be removed in a timely fashion.