

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-40 **Effective:** August 18, 2026

Subject: Acknowledgement Signs

References: None

Purpose: To Establish Policy for Acknowledgement Signing

Primary Department: Traffic Engineering and Maintenance

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) partners with various organizations to perform a variety of maintenance and beautification functions on our roadways. In recognition of the efforts of businesses, private citizens, and local governments, we have provided signing on our roadways to acknowledge these contributors.

The Federal Highway Administration published updated guidance on April 7, 2014, on the use of acknowledgement signs and encouraged each state to develop its own policy, which would substantially comply with their recommendations. Below are the categories of acknowledgment signs currently provided in South Carolina.

Adopt-A-Highway

This program is well established and the procedures listed below are to be followed in signing for the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The Adopt-A-Highway sign will consist of two types of panels. Panel A, the larger panel, shall be 36 inches wide and 24 inches high, using letters 3 inches in height.



Panel B, the smaller panel, shall be 36 inches wide and 6 inches high, using a maximum of eighteen letters, 3 inches in height. This panel shall list the name of the organization adopting the segment of highway where the sign is to be posted.



Generally, signs will be erected at each end of a two-mile section of highway. The sign numbers for these signs are I-10-1-36 for Panel A and I-10-2-36 for Panel B. Layouts for these signs are shown above.

High School State Championship Signs

SCDOT, on request, will allow the installation of signs recognizing high school state championship teams. Schools must be a member of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), or a charter high school accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. Only sports that are recognized by the SCHSL and SCISA are eligible for state championship signs. Individual championships and club sports are not eligible for championship signing. Additionally, sponsored teams, recreational league teams, etc., such as AAU, American Legion, Diamond Youth, etc., are not eligible for signing.

The entity requesting the sign shall reimburse SCDOT \$250 per sign for fabrication and erection. In the event that a school has more than one championship team in a given year, the sign can be modified by adding a plaque with the name of the second team at a cost of \$150 per plaque. If signs are damaged or stolen, the school will be responsible for the replacement cost of \$250 per sign and \$150 per each additional team plaque.

At a minimum, the signs are to remain in place until the end of the school year following the school year in which the championship was won. Multiyear championship signs may be erected. The sign will be a maximum of 24 inches tall and the plaques a maximum of 12 inches tall with variable widths depending on the school's name with 4-inch D sign copy. The sign number for state championship signs is I-34-1 and I-34-1A for the plaques. Typical layouts are shown below. When removed, the signs should be provided to the high school for their own use or display.



Collegiate Championship Signs

SCDOT, on request, will allow the installation of signs recognizing college national championship teams. Only sports that are recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) are eligible for collegiate championship signs. Other championships such as individual, conference, divisional, regional, etc., are not eligible for signing. Club sports are not eligible for championship signing.

The entity requesting the sign shall reimburse SCDOT \$500 per sign for fabrication and erection. In the event that a school has more than one championship team in a given year, the sign can be modified by adding a plaque with the name of the second team at a cost of \$250 per plaque. If signs are damaged or stolen, the school will be responsible for the replacement cost of \$500 per sign and \$250 per each additional team plaque.

These signs are to remain in place for a maximum of three years. Multiyear championship signs may be erected. The sign will be a maximum of 48 inches tall and 120 inches wide, and the plaques will be a maximum of 18 inches tall with variable widths depending on the school's name with 6-inch D sign copy. Typical layouts are shown below. When removed, the signs should be provided to the college for their own use or display.



Signs for Dedications of New Roads and Bridges

Roads and bridges may be dedicated to honor individuals or groups through resolutions passed by the General Assembly. Generally, signs for the dedication of roads and bridges should have green backgrounds with white letters and border. Signs erected to memorialize fallen SCDOT employees shall have black backgrounds with white lettering.

The standard dimension should be 72 inches by 24 inches, with 6-inch series D copy. If the legend requires smaller lettering to fit the standard sign size, 5-inch series C copy may be used. If 3 lines of copy are necessary, 4" D or C copy may be used. If special circumstances exist, the Director of Traffic Engineering will provide a layout upon request from the district engineering administrator.



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