

SIGNAGE UPDATE

“Retroreflectivity” refers to the property of a traffic sign to reflect light back to the driver. Retroreflective traffic signs are used to increase sign visibility at night. Maintaining sign retroreflectivity is important to promote nighttime traffic safety. In January 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) enacted new requirements for maintaining minimum levels of retroreflectivity for traffic signs. These requirements were established through the national Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and apply to all agencies that maintain roadways open to public travel. The MUTCD implementation resulted from a final rule published in the Federal Register on December 21, 2007. The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) is required to “correlate with, and so far as possible conform to” the national MUTCD, and must incorporate new requirements within two years. The responsibility for the design, placement, operation, maintenance, and uniformity of traffic control devices rests with the public agency or the official having jurisdiction. Per Section 4511.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, local authorities shall place and maintain traffic control devices in accordance with the OMUTCD. The December 2007 final rule from FHWA established compliance dates as follows: • By January 22, 2012, all agencies will have to establish and implement a sign maintenance program that can regularly address the new minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements. • By January 22, 2015, all agencies must comply with the retroreflectivity requirements for most of their traffic signs, including: white on red and black on white regulatory signs (such as STOP signs and Speed Limit signs); black on yellow warning signs; and post-mounted white on green guide signs (except street name signs). • By January 22, 2018, all agencies must comply with the retroreflectivity requirements for overhead guide signs and all street name signs.

Beginning in July 2014 Madison Township began our sign replacement. We re-faced 92 signs, added post reflectors to stop signs, and repaired and/or replaced several posts. We were able to buy sign faces at an average cost of \$11.00 instead of replacing the sign at an average cost of \$40.00. The sign faces and post reflectors, with shipping cost, was just over \$1,100.00. Signs that we had in stock were taken to the Clark County Engineers Office to have new faces laminated. When those were picked up and installed, the ones taken down were sent to be laminated. It took about 4 trips to have all of the signs completed. The installation was completed in November 2014. We applied for and received a \$500.00 grant to use toward sign purchase and the County Engineers charge to laminate (which was under \$300.00). Total Township cost for sign replacement approx. \$900.00. This year we are going to examine sign placement and add signs where needed. We will also start planning for road name sign replacement to comply with the January 2018 deadline.