

**Hamilton County Engineer**  
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SUPPLEMENTAL SIGN POLICY FOR  
TOURIST ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNING (T.O.D.S.) &  
TRAILBLAZING SIGNING

Permit Objective:

Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs and Trailblazer Signs are official traffic control devices located on the right-of-way of non-freeway or interstate roadways. TODS are intended to provide the motorist with specific information about activities or sites of significant interest to the traveling public. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Devises, MUTCD, refers to T.O.D.S. as motorist service signs and they are not considered advertising signs. Advertising signs are not permitted within county road right-of-way. This policy shall apply to all County Roads located in Hamilton County and is intended to be used in conjunction with Iowa Code 321.252 and the Iowa Department of Transportation Rules as per Iowa Administrative Code 761 IAC 119 concerning the TODS program.

General Requirements:

All T.O.D.S. applications having Trailblazer signs as part of the application shall be made through a submittal and request for review to the IDOT.

All Trailblazer sign placements on Hamilton County Secondary Roads shall be by permit only and approved by the County Engineer. Trailblazer signs will be permitted by the County, only as part of an approved IDOT installation plan for the T.O.D.S.

Special Requirements:

All Trailblazer signs approved for placement on Hamilton County Roads must qualify as one of the four specific categories of T.O.D.S., as defined per IDOT specifications, described below:

**Motorist Services:** An activity or site providing motorist services such as gas, food, lodging or passenger vehicle service or repair.

**Tourist Attraction:** An activity or site of significant interest to tourists as historic, cultural, scientific, or religious, or a site of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for outdoor recreation.

**Agricultural Activity:** An activity or site of significant interest to the tourist.

**Other Commercial Activity:** A commercial activity or site of significant interest to tourists.

Application Process:

Authorized representatives of qualifying activities, sites, and areas may submit a tourist-oriented direction signing application to the IDOT for review and determination by the T.O.D.S. Committee for either approval or denial of application.

If the T.O.D.S. Committee has given approval of a qualifying application, the authorized representative may request a permit for Trailblazer signs in the county right-of-way.

Fees, Installation, and Maintenance:

Costs for the Trailblazer signs will be paid to and signs provided by the IDOT as part of the T.O.D.S. approved plan. Installation of Trailblazer signs will be provided by Hamilton County and the actual cost of labor, materials, and equipment incurred by Hamilton County Secondary Roads will be charged to and paid by the applicant. Any and all future maintenance will be performed by Hamilton County and the actual costs for maintenance, repair, or replacement necessary, as determined by the County Engineer, will be charged to and paid by the applicant.

HAMILTON COUNTY PERMIT FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL / TODS / TRAILBLAZER SIGNING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility / Business Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Has a TODS application been submitted to IDOT? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Will Trailblazer signs be requested as part of the TODS Plan? \_\_\_\_\_

Trailblazer signs: No. of Signs: \_\_\_\_\_ Message on Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Signs: \_\_\_\_\_ Message on Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If Trailblazer signs are to be installed on Hamilton County Secondary Roads, please attach the approved IDOT plan. This plan, as attached, becomes part of this permit.

Other office comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Applicant is aware and agrees to the requirements stated on the back of this permit form and agrees to pay all cost associated with the placement and maintenance of the signs approved as part of this permit. The applicant agrees to hold the County free from liability for all damage to applicant or business which may occur as a result of this permit. The County shall, at any time subsequent to installation, at the applicant's expense, relocate or remove such signs as may be necessary, as determined by the County Engineer, to conform to new grades, alignment or widening of R.O.W., or other R.O.W. changes resulting from maintenance or construction operations for highway improvements.

Request for approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Company/Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hamilton County Engineer