

Small town signs program just got better

Now communities can decide for themselves which signs to replace under the program.

If your community's population is less than 5,000, you can apply to replace damaged, obsolete, or substandard signs and signposts. The Iowa DOT Office of Traffic and Safety's Small Town Sign Replacement Program will provide up to \$5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community on a first-come, first-served basis.

This program is "a good opportunity for small towns to get signs for free and without consultants or bureaucracy," says Jeff Stratton, program coordinator. "We chose the signs for the program that we think have the biggest bang for the buck for safety," such as stop and yield signs.

A small-town program has been part of the Iowa Traffic Safety Improvement Program for more than 20 years, but in the past, a consultant had to provide a sign inventory. Now communities can decide for themselves which signs to replace under the program.

All eligible communities are encouraged to apply even if they have already participated

in a similar program. Communities can use these signs to help bring their signs into compliance with the new MUTCD standards for retroreflectivity.

What kind of signs are available?

Table 1 shows the different kinds and sizes of signs and the different kinds, sizes, and types of signposts and mounting accessories that are available through the program. In addition to wood and galvanized steel signposts, you can order Telespar® posts and mounting accessories that are right for each sign installation.

What do communities have to do?

Each community is responsible for evaluating its need for replacement signs, which includes determining the proper location for each replacement sign and describing the sign type, route, location, side of the street, and the direction the sign faces.

Each town is also responsible for correctly installing the posts and signs within a specified time frame.

To apply, submit a city council resolution and a completed application form. Download an application packet at www.dot.state.ia.us/traffic/smalltownsign.htm. The packet contains

- a pdf file that includes a sample council resolution and details about the process of completing the application and
- an Excel spreadsheet that has all the information you need so you can describe the signs that need to be replaced and then itemize and automatically calculate your order.

For more information

Contact Jeff Stratton, the Iowa DOT Small Town Sign Replacement Program Coordinator in the Office of Traffic and Safety, 515-239-1154, jeff.stratton@dot.iowa.gov. ■

Small Town Sign Replacement Program Materials

Sign	Size (in.)	Signposts, mounting accessories
STOP	30 x 30	4 in. x 4 in. x 12 ft wood
STOP	36 x 36	4 in. x 4 in. x 14 ft wood
YIELD	36	4 in. x 6 in. x 16 ft wood
DO NOT ENTER	30 x 30	4 in. x 6 in. x 18 ft wood
DO NOT ENTER	36 x 36	U-channel 14 ft galvanized steel
STOP AHEAD	36 x 30	2 in. x 2 in. x 12 ft tubular steel (Telespar®)
Single Headed Arrow	48 x 24	Telespar® anchor bases
Double Headed Arrow	48 x 24	Telespar® concrete mounting bases