

Chapter 705

SIGNS

Section 705-1 General Provisions

- 1.01** The purpose of this ordinance is to control distraction to motorists along public roadways and preserve the harmony between development and the natural amenities within the borders of Carroll County.
- 1.02** All signs hereafter, located, erected, moved, reconstructed, enlarged, extended, converted or structurally altered within the unincorporated areas of Carroll County shall be in conformity with this ordinance.
- 1.03** For the purpose of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:
- (A) Erect – to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw or in any other way bring into being or establish; but does not include any of the foregoing activities when performed as an incident to the change of advertising message or normal maintenance or repair of a sign or sign structure.
 - (B) Maintain – to allow to exist and includes the periodic changing of advertising messages, customary maintenance and repair of signs and sign structures.
 - (C) Public Roadway – any and all state, county or township roads within Carroll County.
 - (D) Sign – any outdoor sign, display, device, notice, figure painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing which is designated, intended or used to advertise or inform, and of which any part of the existing or intended advertising or informative contents is or will be visible from any place on the main traveled way of any portion of road or highway.
 - (E) Sign Structure – the assembled components which make up an outdoor advertising display, including but no limited to the uprights, supports, display area and trim.

Section 705-2 Signs not Requiring Permits

- 2.01** A sign permit will be required for all signs located within the unincorporated areas of Carroll County, with the exception of the following:
- (A) Official traffic control, informational or directional notices erected by Federal, State or Local Government. May be placed within the right of way.
 - (B) Advertising a customary home occupation or professional offices that do not require a special use permit, farm name, centennial farm identification, or property owner name. Not to exceed 12 square feet in gross area and placed at the right of way.
 - (C) Temporary signs advertising the sale, rent or lease of the property on which the sign is located.
 - (D) Temporary agricultural signs indicating test plots, seed names, that are placed along fields at the right of way.

- (E) Temporarily placed signs indicating an event, such as auctions, yard sales, estate sales, open houses, receptions, etc., so long as placed not to obstruct the visibility of motorists.
- (F) Temporarily placed banners, signs, flags, placards or any structure used to convey election and campaign information temporarily used during election periods. Placed at the right of way line of a roadway.

2.02 Permitted zoning of signs.

	AG-1	R-1	R-2	B-1 REC-1	AP-1	I-1	I-2	C-1
TYPE 1	X			X	X	X	X	X
TYPE 2	X			X	X	X	X	X
TYPE 3	X	X	X					
TYPE 4	X			X	X	X	X	X
TYPE 5	X			X				X
TYPE 6	X			X				X
TYPE 7				X	X	X	X	X

2.03 Types of Signs

Signs that are one sided, back-to-back or V-shaped in design will constitute one sign. **There will be only ONE (1) sign to a parcel other than those not requiring a permit. This requirement may be given variance by the direction and authority of the Carroll County Board.**

TYPE 1: SMALL DIRECTORY OF OFF SITE

Purpose:	Directory signs advertising business or activity conducted, an area of interest, service or product available at a location other than the location of the sign.
Zones:	AG-1; B-1; REC-1; AP-1; I-1; I-2; C-1
Setback:	5 feet from right-of-way line of road
Max Size:	24 feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$35.00

TYPE 2: LARGE ADVERTISEMENT OF ON SITE

Purpose:	Advertising a business or activity conducted, an area of interest, a service or product available on the same location as the sign.
Zones:	AG-1, B-1; REC-1; AP-1; I-1; I-2; C-1
Setback:	25 feet from right-of-way line of road
Max Size:	200 square feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$40.00

TYPE 3: SMALL ADVERTISEMENT OF ON SITE

Purpose:	Advertising a business or activity conducted or a service or product available on the same location as the sign.
Zones:	AG-1; R-1; R-2
Setback:	5 feet from right-of-way line of road
Max Size:	24 feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Not allowable
Fee:	\$35.00

TYPE 4: LARGE ADVERTISEMENT OF ON SITE (ON BUILDING)

Purpose:	Signs on or attached to agricultural, commercial, or industrial buildings that advertise a business conducted or a service available on the premises.
Zones:	AG-1; B-1; REC-1; AP-1; I-1; I-2; C-1
Setback:	On one side of building only
Size:	300 square feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$40.00

TYPE 5: SMALL DIRECTORY REC ACTIVITY

Purpose:	Signs indicating the direction to camps, campgrounds, recreation areas, resorts, or similar uses at a location other than the sign location.
Zones:	AG-1; B-1; C-1; REC-1; R-1; R-2
Setback:	1 foot from right-of-way line at road
Max Size:	12 square feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$25.00

TYPE 6: MEDIUM DIRECTORY LODGING

Purpose:	Signs identifying mobile home park, campground, condominium complex, subdivision, apartment buildings, rental cabins or other multi-family living/recreational structures or facilities.
Zones:	AG-1; B-1; C-1; REC-1
Setback:	5 feet from right- of-way of road. One per parcel or development.
Size:	30 Square feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$40.00

TYPE 7: LARGE ADVERTISEMENT/DIRECTORY (ANY, MAX 4)

Purpose:	Composite structure advertising no more than four (4) businesses, activities, areas of interest or locations other than that of the sign.
Zones:	B-1; REC-1; I-1; I-2; C-1
Setback:	30 feet from the right-of-way line
Size:	300 square feet in gross area.
Illumination:	Allowable
Fee:	\$50.00

Section 705-3**General Requirements**

- 3.01** No sign, except official traffic control signs erected by governmental units shall be so placed as to interfere with the visibility or effectiveness of any official traffic sign or signal, or placed within the vision clearance triangle, as defined in Figure 1 of this ordinance.
- 3.02** No sign shall resemble, imitate, or approximate the shape, size, form or color of railroad or traffic signals, warnings, signs, or devices.
- 3.03** No sign shall contain, include or be illuminated by flashing lights.
- 3.04** No sign shall contain, include or be composed of any animated or moving parts.
- 3.05** No sign shall make use of any rock, tree or other natural feature for support or for carrying a message, except those signs legally indicating no hunting or trespassing and/or private regulatory signs that may be attached to trees.
- 3.06** At no time shall any sign exceed 300 square feet in gross area.
- 3.07** Any lighting used to illuminate a sign will be arranged so as to deflect light away from adjoining property and public roadways. Lighting will be of such low intensity or brilliance as to not cause glare or impair the vision of a driver of any motor vehicle or otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle.
- 3.08** Signs located within 300 feet of navigable waters shall not exceed 16 square feet in area, nor shall they be erected to a height greater than 16 feet. Such signs shall be erected above the ordinary high-water mark and shall not be internally illuminated.
- 3.09** In each quadrant of every street intersection, there shall be designated a visual clearance triangle by the street centerline and a line connecting them 300 feet from State or County Highway intersection and 200 feet from a township highway intersection. If two highways of a different type intersect, the greater distance shall apply to both centerlines. Within this triangle, no sign or sign components over two feet in height above these streets shall be allowed if it obstructs the view across the triangle. Post or open fences are excluded from this provision. Natural vegetation and agricultural crops shall also be exempt from this provision.

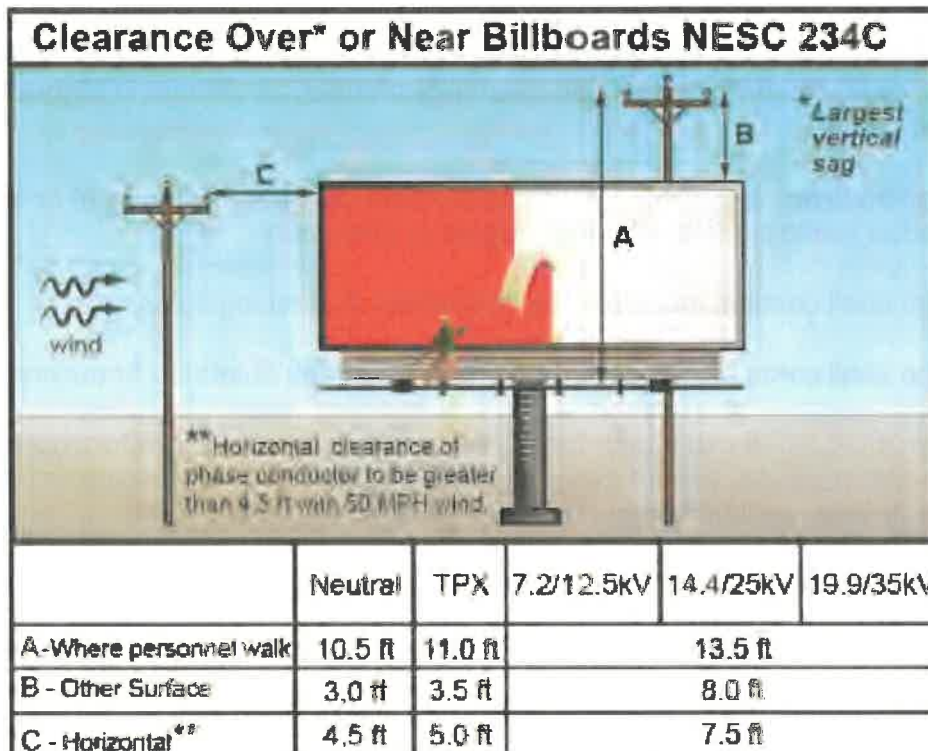
Section 705-4 Non-Conforming Signs

All non-conforming signs lawfully placed on the date of this ordinance shall be grandfathered in, and at such time that said signs are torn down, eliminated, extracted, obliterated or otherwise removed, either by natural or man-made forces, erection of a new sign must meet compliance with this ordinance.

Section 705-5 Controlled State Highways

All signs placed along Federal Access Primary or Interstate or State Highway routes shall comply with current State and Federal Department of Transportation regulations.

- 5.01** National Electric Safety Code, high wire separation.



Section 705-6 Condition of Signs

It is the responsibility of the sign owner to maintain the upkeep of the sign, as well as, the surrounding property around the sign. Weeds and grasses will be cut and maintained so not to grow over the signs. Signs that are in poor condition will be considered a nuisance.

Section 705-7 Fees

The fee for sign permits shall follow the fee schedule and is payable at the time of application to the Carroll County Zoning Administrator.

TYPE 1 \$35.00	TYPE 4	\$40.00
TYPE 2 \$40.00	TYPE 5	\$25.00
TYPE 3 \$25.00	TYPE 6	\$40.00
	TYPE 7	\$50.00

Section 705-8 Permit Process

- (A) Complete application form.
- (B) Applicant must submit evidence of property ownership or written permission to place sign on property owned by someone else.
- (C) Applicant must submit layout for the actual placement of the sign, indicating distance from the public roadway.
- (D) Applicant must provide all of the information that will appear on the sign and size and height of finished sign. At a later date Zoning Administrator will photograph the sign for records and registration.
- (E) When applicable, an approved sign permit from the State of Illinois. Conditions

- of the more stringent shall apply.
- (F) Pay application fee.

Section 705-9 Revocation of Permits

The Zoning Administrator may revoke any permit for any sign found not to be in compliance with this ordinance.

Section 705-10 Violations

- (A) Any violation of this ordinance shall be a zoning offense for which the violator shall be fined not to exceed \$500.00. Each week in which such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. The Court in any proceeding on a citation and complaint alleging a violation of this ordinance shall have the authority to order the removal of any sign or sign structure which violates this ordinance or to enter any other order against any party to the proceeding which will remedy the violation.
- (B) The Zoning Administrator and any peace officer are authorized to issue a citation and complaint against any person violating this ordinance requiring that person to appear in court for hearing on the charge.

Section 705-11 Variances

The County Board may grant variations from the provisions of this ordinance. The County Board may impose such restrictions and conditions upon the sign and premises benefited by a variance as the public health, safety and general welfare may require. No setback requirement can be varied more than 50 percent of its original requirement.

11.01 Exhibits Required

Applications for variances shall be made to the Zoning Officer. The following exhibits must accompany all applications unless waived by the Zoning Administrator.

- (a) A completed sign application.
- (b) Other information as deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator.

11.02 Application Procedure

The procedures for applying for a setback variance are as follows:

- (a) The property owner or agent shall meet with the Zoning Officer to explain the situation, learn the procedures, and obtain a sign variance application form.
- (b) The applicant shall file the completed application form together with the required exhibits with the Zoning Officer and shall pay a filing fee per Chapter 360 Building Regulations.
- (c) The Zoning Officer shall transmit the application and supporting documentation to:
 - (1) County Board.

- (2) When applicable to IDOT, County Engineer and/or Township Road Commissioner.
- (3) When applicable to utility companies, with above ground infrastructure in the area.
- (d) The County Board will review the application and grant, deny or grant with conditions; or
 - (1) Table the application to a later date; or
 - (2) Refer the application to committee for further hearing on the application. That committee shall thereafter present the matter back to the full County Board for a decision.
- (e) The Carroll County Board shall act on the application within 60 days after receiving the application or 45 days after a recommendation of a committee has been made.

Figure 1

Visibility Triangle for Federal, State, or County Highway: No signs shall be erected within this area. Measure 300 feet from center of intersection down centerline of roads in both directions.

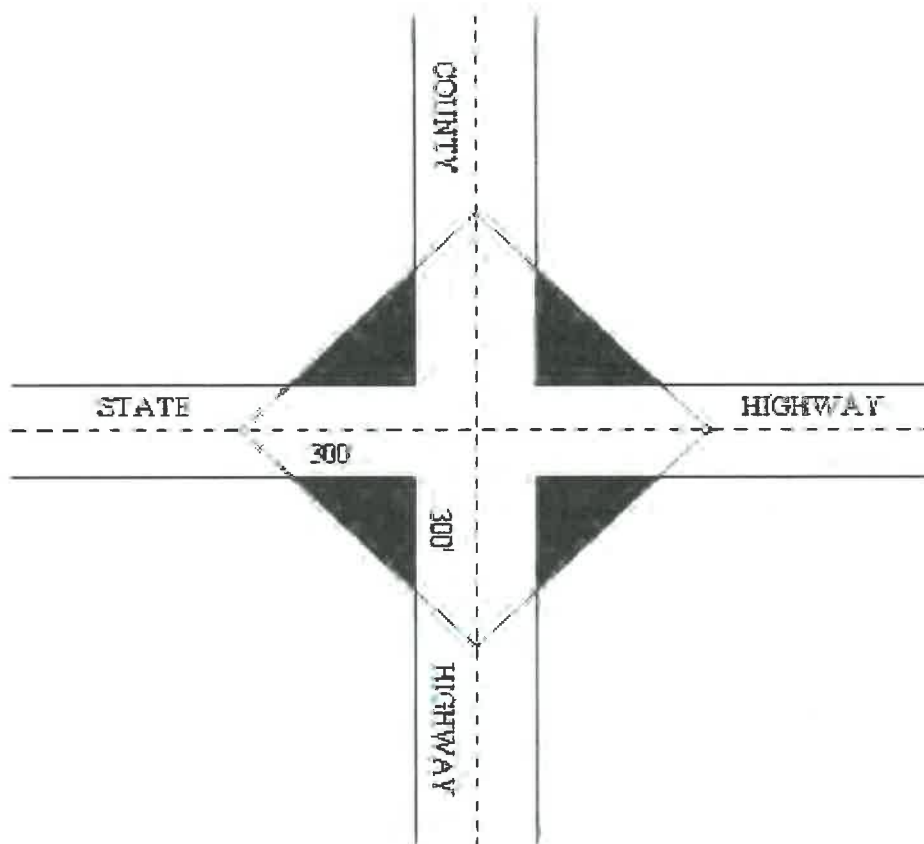
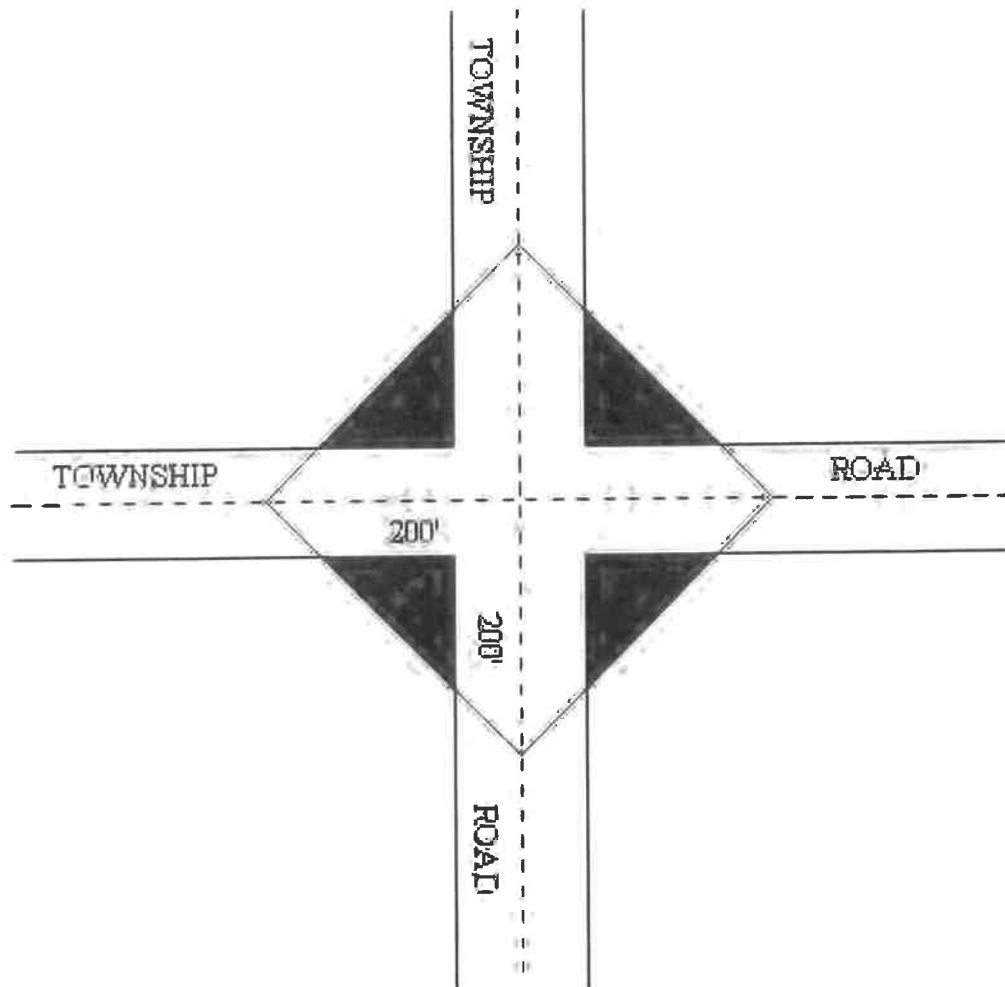


Figure 1 Cont'd.

Visibility Triangle for Township Roads: No signs will be erected within this area. Measure 200 feet from center of intersection down centerline of roads in both directions.



Passed/Amended this 18th day of January 2018 by the County Board of Carroll County.

Kevin Reibel
County Board Chairman

