

**OFFICE CONSOLIDATION**

**BYLAW NUMBER 29M97**

**BEING A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF CALGARY  
TO REGULATE  
TEMPORARY SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS  
\*\*\*\*\***

(Amended by 1M2000, 42M2004, 38M2012, 28M2017, 37M2020, 72M2021)

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26 provides that a council may pass bylaws respecting people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Traffic Safety Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. T-6 empowers a council to pass bylaws respecting the use of highways;

**AND WHEREAS** it is desirable to regulate temporary signs placed on highways in order to balance the need for signage and expression with safety and aesthetics;

**AND WHEREAS** limiting sign proliferation helps to reduce visual clutter and allows for more effective communication of information for all sign users;

**AND WHEREAS** regulating the size, location and structure of signs ensures that informational and community signs have access to public places in order to communicate with the public;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALGARY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Title**

1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Temporary Signs on Highways Bylaw”.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Bylaw,

- (a.1) “Advocacy Messaging” means messaging that publicly expresses an opinion on an issue or cause;

(37M2020, 2020 October 05)

- (a) “Boulevard” means that part of a highway that

- (i) is not Roadway, and

- (ii) is that part of the Sidewalk that is not especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

- (b) DELETED BY 72M2021, 2022 JANUARY 01
- (c) “City Manager” means the Chief Administrative Officer of The City of Calgary or the employee of The City of Calgary who has been delegated the authority to exercise the powers, duties, and functions of the Chief Administrative Officer under this Bylaw;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)  
(72M2021, 2022 January 01)
- (d) “City” means The City of Calgary, a municipal corporation of the Province of Alberta;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (e) DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29;
- (f) DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29;
- (g) “Crosswalk” means any part of a Roadway at an Intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by Signs or by lines or by other markings on the Roadway surface;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (h) DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29;
- (h.1) “Election Period” means:
  - (a) for a federal election or by-election, the period starting from the issuance of the writ and ending after the close of polls;
  - (b) for a provincial election or by-election, the period starting from the issuance of the writ and ending after the close of polls; or
  - (c) for a municipal election or by-election or school board election or by-election, the period starting from the close of nominations and ending after the close of polls;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (i) “Election Sign” means any Sign used to promote a candidate or party during a provincial or federal election or by-election, or any election or by-election held pursuant to the Local Authorities Election Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-21;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (j) DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29;
- (k) “Highway” means any public thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway or trestle way owned by the City and includes:
  - (i) a Sidewalk (including the Boulevard portion of the Sidewalk);
  - (ii) if a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the Roadway, the ditch; and

(iii) if a Highway right of way is contained between fences or between a fence and one side of the Roadway, all the land between the fence and the edge of the Roadway, as the case may be;

but excludes any street or road located on privately owned land;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

(l) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of:

(i) the lateral curb lines; or

(ii) if there are not any lateral curb lines, the exterior edges of the Roadways;

of 2 or more Highways which join one another at an angle whether or not one Highway crosses the other;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

(m) "Median" means a physical barrier or area that separates traffic travelling in one direction from traffic travelling on the opposite direction on a Highway;

(n) "Municipal Property" means structures, equipment or things owned by the City and which are on Highways;

(n.1) "Officer" means a Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointed under the Bylaw Enforcement Officers Appointment Bylaw 60M86, or an officer appointed under the Peace Officer Act, S.A. 2006, c. P-3.5 or under the Police Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-17;

(72M2021, 2022 January 01)

(o) "Owner" is any Person who is described on a Sign, whose name or address or telephone number appears on a Sign, who created a Sign, who installed a Sign, who is in lawful control of a Sign or who is the subject of or otherwise benefits from the message of a Sign, and for the purposes of this Bylaw there may be more than one Owner of a Sign;

(p) "Person" means a natural person or a body corporate and includes a partnership, a group of Persons acting in concert or an association;

(q) "Poster" means a Sign which is not self-supporting and is attached with its entire back surface in contact with a pole or wall or other structure;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

(r) "Poster Board" means a structure placed by the City on a Highway for the purpose of posting bills, notices and Posters;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

(r.1) "Prohibited Highway" means a Highway or portion of Highway, as designated by the Traffic Engineer, where the placement of Signs is prohibited unless otherwise authorized by this Bylaw;

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

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- (s) "Roadway" means that part of a Highway intended for use by vehicular traffic;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (s.1) "School" means a "school" as defined in the Education Act, SA 2012, c.E-0.3;  
(37M2020, 2020 October 05)
  - (s.2) "School Day" means the hours between 07:30 and 21:00 on any day that a School is in operation, as determined by its board;  
(37M2020, 2020 October 05)
  - (s.3) "School Grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground or land contained within the real property boundary line of a School;  
(37M2020, 2020 October 05)
  - (t) "Sidewalk" means that part of a Highway especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians, and includes that part of a Highway between the curb or edge of the Roadway and the adjacent property line, whether or not paved or improved;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (u) "Sign" means an inscribed board, bill, placard, Poster, banner, flag or device which is intended to promote anything or inform anyone;
  - (u.1) "Sound Attenuation Wall" means an exterior structure designed to reduce transportation-related sound levels in adjacent residential areas;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (v) DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29;
  - (w) "Traffic Control Device" means any Sign, signal, marking or device placed, marked or erected under the authority of the Traffic Safety Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. T-6, and the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (w.1) "Traffic Engineer" means the person appointed to the designated officer position of Traffic Engineer established by the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96, or that person's designate;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (x) "Traffic Island" means a physical barrier or strip of land which channels traffic into a specific route or controls turns at an Intersection or provides refuge to protect or aid pedestrians crossing a Highway;  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
  - (y) "Traffic Signal Pole" means any pole with an electronic or illuminated Traffic Control Device attached to it.  
(1M2000, 2000 January 24)  
(42M2004, 2004 June 21)
- 2.1 (1) Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a Person from complying with any federal

or provincial law or regulation, other bylaw or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.

- (2) Specific references to laws in this Bylaw are meant to refer to the current laws applicable within the Province of Alberta as at the time this Bylaw was enacted and as they are amended from time to time, including successor legislation.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

3. This Bylaw applies to Signs placed on Highways but does not apply to Signs permitted by:

- (a) the Land Use Bylaw 1P2007;
- (b) the Stephen Avenue Mall Bylaw 52M87;
- (c) the Barclay Mall Bylaw 17M84;
- (d) the Municipal Complex Bylaw 38M2012;
- (e) the Residential Directional Sign Bylaw 37P97;
- (f) the Real Property Bylaw 52M2009;
- (g) the Sign Licensing Bylaw 23M2001; or
- (h) the Mall Between Second Street S.E. and First Street S.E. on Eighth Avenue Bylaw 26M85.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

### **General Rules**

3.1 A Person must not place a Sign on a Highway which:

- (a) obstructs a Traffic Control Device;
- (b) has a position, shape, colour, format or illumination which is similar to a Traffic Control Device;
- (c) is a hazard, obstructs or is dangerous to vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
- (d) is attached to or within 2 metres of a fire hydrant;
- (e) is permanently affixed;
- (f) is lit or electrified;
- (g) is inflatable;
- (h) is supported by string, rope, or metal guide-wire to add stability to the freestanding structure;

- (i) is unsightly, damaged or in disrepair or becomes unsightly, damaged or in disrepair;
- (j) is attached to any Traffic Signal Pole;
- (k) is attached to any street light pole;
- (l) is attached to any Sound Attenuation Wall placed by the City;
- (m) is attached on or within a Plus 15 bridge;
- (n) causes or could cause any damage to Municipal Property;
- (o) is attached to any Calgary Transit Sign, Sign pole or structure; or
- (p) is:
  - (i) within 30 metres of; and
  - (ii) on the same side of the Highway as;

a City bus shelter, transit bench, bus zone, Light Rail Transit Station, or Light Rail Transit platform without the written permission of the City Manager.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

3.2 A Person must not place a Sign on a Highway which:

- (a) has a Sign face that is larger than 0.6 square metres; or
- (b) is higher than 0.92 metres when measured from grade to the highest part of the Sign.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

3.3 A Person must not place a Sign on a Highway:

- (a) within 15 metres of an Intersection;
- (b) within 2 metres of a curb or edge of any Roadway;
- (c) on or within any Traffic Island or Median;
- (d) within a Playground Zone or School Zone;
- (e) within 10 metres of a Crosswalk that is not located at an Intersection; or
- (f) that is:
  - (i) within 20 metres of; and
  - (ii) on the same side of the Highway as;

a Sign that is posted by the same Owner and depicts, advertises or promotes the same idea.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

- 3.3.1 (a) No person shall display or carry a Sign with Advocacy Messaging larger than 3.5 inches x 5 inches within 150 meters of the boundary of School Grounds on a School Day.

(37M2020, 2020 October 05)

3.4 A Person must not allow a Sign to remain on a Highway:

- (a) for more than fourteen consecutive days; or
- (b) for more than 24 hours following the date any advertised event concludes;

whichever is sooner.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

3.5 A Person who places a Sign on a Highway must legibly state on the Sign:

- (a) the name of an Owner of the Sign and the address and phone number of the Owner; and
- (b) the date the Sign was placed.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

### **Prohibited Highways**

- 4. (1) A Person must not place a Sign on a Prohibited Highway.
- (2) The Traffic Engineer is authorized to designate any Highway or portion of Highway as a Prohibited Highway for the purposes of this Bylaw.
- (3) The Traffic Engineer must keep a record of every Prohibited Highway that has been designated pursuant to subsection (1) and the record must be available for public inspection at the office of the Traffic Engineer during normal business hours.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

### **Posters**

- 5. (1) Posters are subject to all of the provisions of this Bylaw except as modified by this section.
- (2) Despite sections 3.1(d), 3.1(k) and 3.3(b), a Person may attach a Poster to an unpainted street light pole on a Highway provided that:
  - (a) no more than one Poster, per Owner, is placed on the street light pole;
  - (b) the Poster is attached with clear adhesive tape or securable plastic banding;

- (c) the Poster does not exceed 0.12 square metres;
  - (d) the Poster is constructed of a non-rigid material; and
  - (e) the street light pole is not within 150 metres of a Poster Board.
- (3) Despite subsection 4(1), a Poster may be placed on a street light pole on a Prohibited Highway.
- (4) Despite any other provision in this Bylaw, a Poster may be placed on a Poster Board provided by the City.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Garage Sales**

6. DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29.

**Authorized Signs**

7. DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29.

**Signs on Overpasses and Pedestrian Walkways**

- 7.1 (1) Signs over a Highway or on or within a pedestrian walkway or any other overpass are subject to all the provisions of this Bylaw except sections 3.1(h), 3.1(m), 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 4, or as modified by this section.
- (2) A Person must not place a Sign over a Highway or on or within a pedestrian walkway or any other overpass without a valid and subsisting permit issued by the Traffic Engineer.
- (3) Despite subsection 10(1)(b), a Person must not hold or display a Sign over a Highway or on or within a pedestrian walkway or any other overpass.
- (4) The Traffic Engineer is authorized to establish fees for and impose conditions on any permit issued under this section.
- (5) A Person who obtains a permit from the Traffic Engineer pursuant to this section must comply with all of the provisions and conditions of the permit.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Election Signs**

8. (1) Election Signs are subject to all of the provisions of this Bylaw except as modified by this section.
- (2) Despite subsection 3.4(a), a Person may place an Election Sign on a Highway for more than 14 consecutive days during an Election Period.
- (3) Despite subsection 3.4(b), a Person must not place an Election Sign on a Highway for more than 72 hours following the end of an Election Period.



- (4) Despite section 3.2, a Person must not place an Election Sign on a Highway during an Election Period if:
  - (a) the Sign face exceeds 3.0 square metres;
  - (b) the height exceeds 2.5 metres when measured from grade to the highest point of the Sign; or
  - (c) the width exceeds 3.05 metres when measured from the widest points of the Sign.
- (5) Despite subsection 3.3(a), a Person must place an Election Sign a minimum of 30 metres from an Intersection if the Sign face measures more than 0.6 square metres.
- (6) Further to subsection 2.2(b), where any provision regulating an Election Sign under this Bylaw conflicts with any other federal or provincial election legislation, the federal or provincial legislation prevails to the extent of the conflict.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Community Identification Signs and Community Association Signs**

9. DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29.

**Mobile Community Signs**

- 9.1 (1) Despite section 3.2, the Traffic Engineer may issue a permit to allow for the placement of a Sign on a Highway where:
  - (a) the Sign face does not exceed 3.0 square metres;
  - (b) the height does not exceed 2.5 metres when measured from grade to the highest point of the Sign; or
  - (c) the width does not exceed 3.05 metres when measured from the widest points of the Sign.
- (2) A Sign for which a permit has been issued pursuant to subsection (1) shall be referred to as a Mobile Community Sign.
- (3) Mobile Community Signs are subject to all of the provisions of this Bylaw except as modified by this section.
- (4) The Traffic Engineer is authorized to establish fees for and impose conditions on any permit issued for a Mobile Community Sign.
- (5) A Person who obtains a permit from the Traffic Engineer pursuant to this section must comply with all of the provisions and conditions of the permit.

- (6) A Mobile Community Sign may only be used to advertise community events organized by the following groups:
  - (a) community associations and Business Improvement Areas;
  - (b) registered not-for-profit or charitable organizations;
  - (c) elementary schools, secondary schools or post-secondary institutions;
  - (d) not-for-profit amateur sports organizations;
  - (e) hospitals; and
  - (f) elected officials for the purposes of non-partisan events.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6), a “community event” means any event that is open to the public and is not for a purely commercial purpose.
- (8) Despite subsection 3.3(a), a Person must not place a Mobile Community Sign within 30 metres of an Intersection.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Exemptions**

- 10. (1) The following Signs are exempt from the application of this Bylaw:
  - (a) Signs used by the City for operational, public safety, display, advertising or ornamental purposes; and
  - (b) any Sign carried by or on a person, subject to subsection 3.3.1 (a).

(37M2020, 2020 October 05)

**Enforcement**

- 11. (1) Any Sign that impedes or interferes with the work of a City operation may be removed and disposed of by a City Employee, officer or agent affected without notice to the Owner of the Sign.
- (2) Any Sign which an Officer finds in breach of this Bylaw may be removed and impounded without prior notice to the Owner.

(72M2021, 2022 January 01)
- (3) Any Sign impounded for a period of 30 days which has not been claimed by the Owner may be destroyed without compensation by the City to the Owner.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (4) An Owner of a Sign is liable for any and all damage, loss and expense caused by or arising from the erection, maintenance or removal of the Sign.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)
- (5) The Traffic Engineer may revoke any permit issued under this Bylaw if an Owner contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Prosecutions and Penalties**

12. (1) If a Sign is involved in an offence referred to in this Bylaw, the Owner of the Sign is guilty of an offence.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the Owner of the Sign satisfies the Court that the Owner did not place the Sign, and that the Person who placed the Sign did so without the Owner's express or implied consent.
- (3) Any Person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 and in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or both.
- (4) Where an Officer believes that a Person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, the Officer may commence proceedings by issuing a summons by means of a violation ticket in accordance with Part 2 of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34.  
(72M2021, 2022 January 01)
- (5) The minimum and specified penalty payable in respect of a contravention of a provision of this Bylaw is the amount shown in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.  
(28M2017, 2017 May 29)

**Repeal**

13. The following City Bylaws are repealed:
- (a) Temporary Sign Bylaw Number 33M95;
- (b) Election Sign Bylaw Number 12M95; and
- (c) Decorative Light Pole Bylaw Number 41M94.

**Consequential Amendments**

14. The City's Street Bylaw Number 20M88 is amended by the repeal of Sections 2(20), 64 and 83(2).

**Commencement**

15. This Bylaw comes into force on the date it is passed.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 1997.

READ A SECOND TIME, AS AMENDED, THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 1997.

READ A THIRD TIME, AS AMENDED, THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 1997.

(Sgd.) A. Duerr  
MAYOR

(Sgd.) D. Garner  
CITY CLERK

**SCHEDULE “A”**

**MINIMUM AND SPECIFIED PENALTIES**

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>MINIMUM PENALTY</b>	<b>SPECIFIED PENALTY</b>
3.1(a)	Obstruct a Traffic Control Device	\$250	\$500
3.1(b)	Replicate a Traffic Control Device	\$125	\$250
3.1(c)	Hazardous to or obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic	\$125	\$250
3.1(d)	Placed within 2 metres from fire hydrant	\$125	\$250
3.1(e)	Permanently affixed	\$250	\$500
3.1(f)	Illuminated or electrified	\$125	\$250
3.1(g)	Inflatable	\$75	\$125
3.1(h)	Supported with prohibited material	\$125	\$250
3.1(i)	Unightly, damaged or in disrepair	\$75	\$125
3.1(j)	Attached to Traffic Signal Pole	\$75	\$125
3.1(k)	Attached to street light pole	\$75	\$125
3.1(l)	Attached to a Sound Attenuation Wall	\$75	\$125
3.1(m)	Attached on or in a Plus 15 bridge	\$500	\$1000
3.1(n)	Cause damage to Municipal Property	\$250	\$500
3.1(o)	Attached to any Calgary Transit Sign, pole or structure	\$125	\$250
3.1(p)	Placed within 30 metres of any Calgary Transit property	\$125	\$250

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3.2(a)	Oversized Sign	\$125	\$250
3.2(b)	Over height Sign	\$125	\$250
3.3(a)	Placed within 15 metres of an Intersection	\$125	\$250
3.3(b)	Placed within 2 metres of a curb or edge of Roadway	\$125	\$250
3.3(c)	Placed on a Traffic Island or Median	\$125	\$250
3.3(d)	Placed within a Playground or School Zone	\$125	\$250
3.3(e)	Placed within 10 metres of a Crosswalk	\$125	\$250
3.3(f)	Placed within 20 metres of a Sign posted by same Owner	\$75	\$125
3.3.1(a)	Display or carry Sign with Advocacy Messaging within 150 meters of boundary of School Grounds	\$500	\$1000
3.4(a)	Posted longer than 14 days	\$75	\$125
3.4(b)	Posted longer than 24 hours after event	\$75	\$125
3.5(a)	Posted without Owner information	\$75	\$125
3.5(b)	Posted without required date	\$75	\$125
4(1)	Placed on a Prohibited Highway	\$125	\$250
5(2)(a)	Multiple Posters on street light pole	\$75	\$125
5(2)(b)	Poster improperly attached	\$75	\$125
5(2)(c)	Oversized Poster	\$75	\$125
5(2)(d)	Poster composed of improper material	\$75	\$125
5(2)(e)	Poster placed within 150 metres of a Poster Board	\$75	\$125
7.1(2)	Place Sign on overpass without a permit	\$500	\$1000
7.1(3)	Hold a Sign over a Highway	\$500	\$1000
7.1(5)	Fail to comply with conditions of permit	\$125	\$250
8(3)	Placed longer than 72 hours after Election Period	\$75	\$125
8(4)(a)	Oversized Election Sign	\$125	\$250

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8(4)(b)	Over height Election Sign	\$125	\$250
8(4)(c)	Over width Election Sign	\$125	\$250
8(5)	Election Sign placed within 30 metres of an Intersection	\$125	\$250
9.1(5)	Fail to comply with conditions of permit	\$125	\$250
9.1(6)	Unauthorized use of Mobile Community Sign	\$250	\$500
9.1(8)	Mobile Community Sign placed within 30 metres of an Intersection	\$125	\$250

(28M2017, 2017 May 29)  
(37M2020, 2020 October 05)

**SCHEDULE "B"**

DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29.

**SCHEDULE "C"**

DELETED BY 28M2017, 2017 MAY 29.