

MINNESOTA'S BEST PRACTICES FOR  
**Traffic Sign Maintenance/  
Management Handbook**

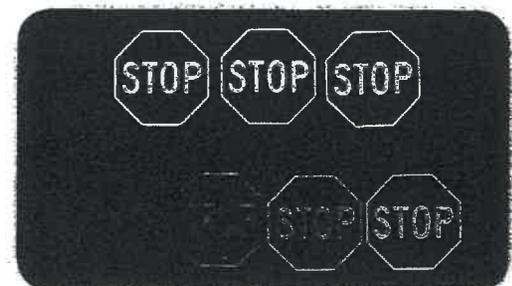
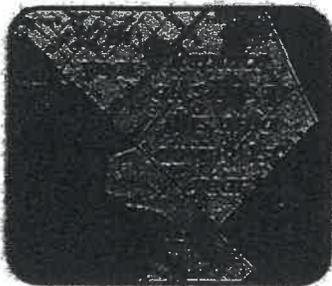
**Including Insight on How to Remove Unnecessary and Ineffective Signage**

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# Sign Effectiveness Summary

	Signs that ARE proven to be effective	Signs that have not been tested for effectiveness	Signs that appear to be ineffective	Signs that are proven ineffective
<b>Regulatory</b>		 	 	
<b>Warning</b>	 	 		 
<b>Guide</b>			 	

■ **OK, which signs have been proven effective at either reducing crashes or changing driver behavior?**

- A search of the traffic safety literature found that the only types of signs that have been proven effective are the Horizontal Alignment Series (but only in a fairly narrow range of curve radii).
- Research published by NCHRP found that pedestrian warning signs in combination with marked crosswalks at uncontrolled intersections in fact resulted in greater numbers of pedestrian crashes.
- Guide Signs have been found to only have a minimal effect on intersection crashes but are assumed to improve way finding and navigation.
- Bottom line – if your decision to install a sign is based on an expectation of effectiveness – either reducing crashes or changing driver behavior – the literature in support is virtually non-existent.
- It appears that most signs fall into a category of hope - hope they do some good and an expectation that at least they don't do any harm.