



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

December 20, 2012

CIRCULAR LETTER 2012-21

CONTROL OF OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS

**COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Outdoor advertising signs, also known as billboards, adjacent to specified state highways are controlled (permitted) by the department by both the federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 CFR 750) and the state Highway Advertising Control Act of 1971 (225 ILCS 440). The department rules for compliance with these regulations are contained in Title 92 Illinois Administrative Code Part 522 – Control of Outdoor Advertising Adjacent to Primary and Interstate Highways.

Both off-premise signs and on-premise signs along interstates, and off-premise signs along the other controlled routes require a permit or registration issued by the Department. Further, re-erection or alteration of existing signs erected pursuant to these regulations (outside of normal maintenance activity) requires a new permit. The department does not own or lease any advertising structures; the department only regulates the size and location of the signs. Most local authorities also have regulations or ordinances regarding signage in their jurisdiction. Approval of a sign application from the department does not exempt the applicant from any local ordinances or guarantee approval from the local authority having jurisdiction.

The Bureau of Land Acquisition has created a web site with complete information about this program at www.dot.state.il.us/landacq/billboards.html.

Please contact DOT.Billboards@Illinois.gov with any questions about this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James K. Klein".

James K. Klein, S.E., P. E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets