

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT Outdoor Advertising Control
Highway Beautification Act of 1965

FHWA NOTICE

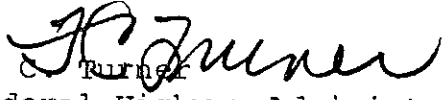
September 1, 1971

EV-30

In May 1971, Secretary Volpe participated in the removal of the first billboard to be taken down utilizing funds authorized for this purpose by the 1970 Highway Act. This was in Freeport, Maine. More recently, the Secretary visited Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming to take part in similar ceremonies. The Secretary intends that these ceremonies will mark the beginning of a vigorous, on-going program of sign removal under the Highway Beautification Act of 1965.

Accordingly, those States in full compliance with Title I of the 1965 Act should request funds for sign removal, if they have not already done so. State requests should be based on completing, during fiscal year 1972, a reasonable portion of the State's total sign removal program. In his testimony before Congress concerning the 1970 Highway Act, Secretary Volpe indicated that the Department planned a 5- to 6-year sign removal program. Congress endorsed this by authorizing the full amount of the Department's 1970 Act request. This year, Congress further recognized this goal by establishing a \$40 million obligational limit on highway beautification. State requests should thus approach or equal one-fifth or one-sixth of the State's total needs. Also, we will give favorable consideration to requests for an accelerated program which would lead to the removal of all nonconforming signs in a State in 1 or 2 years.

Several States have removed large numbers of abandoned signs, or signs rendered illegal by virtue of the owner's failure to secure the necessary permit. We would encourage all States to consider this type of removal on an accelerated basis to achieve maximum impact at a minimum cost. Federal funds will participate in force account work to remove abandoned or illegal signs, provided said work is performed in accordance with State law. The restrictive dates contained in 131(g) of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 will not govern Federal participation in State costs of this type, since these dates only apply to compensation to sign owners and landowners. In other words, Federal funds may participate in the State's cost of removing abandoned or illegal signs regardless of when these signs were erected.


F. C. Turner
Federal Highway Administrator

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