

A G R E E M E N T

FOR CARRYING OUT NATIONAL POLICY RELATIVE TO CONTROL OF  
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE NATIONAL SYSTEM  
OF INTERSTATE AND DEFENSE HIGHWAYS AND THE FEDERAL-AID PRIMARY  
SYSTEM

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into by and between the United States of America represented by the Secretary of Transportation acting by and through the Federal Highway Administrator, hereinafter referred to as the "Administrator," and the State of North Carolina, represented by the State Highway Commission acting by and through its Chairman, hereinafter referred to as the "State".

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, Congress has declared that Outdoor Advertising in areas adjacent to the Interstate and Federal-aid primary systems should be controlled in order to protect the public investment in such highways, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel and to preserve natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Section 131(d) of Title 23, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to enter into agreements with the several States to determine the size, lighting, and spacing of signs, displays, and devices, consistent with customary use, which may be erected and maintained within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way within areas adjacent to the Interstate and Federal-aid Primary Systems which are zoned industrial or commercial under authority of State law or in unzoned commercial or industrial areas, also to be determined by agreement; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said agreement is to promote the reasonable, orderly, and effective display of outdoor advertising while remaining consistent with the national policy to protect the public investment in

the Interstate and Federal-aid primary highways, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel and to preserve natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Section 131(b) of Title 23, United States Code, provides that Federal-aid highway funds apportioned on or after January 1, 1968, to any State which the Secretary determined has not made provision for effective control of the erection and maintenance along the Interstate System and the primary system of outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices which are within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main traveled way of the system, shall be reduced by amounts equal to 10 per centum of the amounts which would otherwise be apportioned to such State under Section 104 of Title 23, United States Code, until such time as such State shall provide for such effective control; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina desires to implement and carry out the provisions of Section 131 of Title 23, United States Code, and the national policy in order to remain eligible to receive the full amount of all Federal-aid highway funds to be apportioned to such State on or after January 1, 1968, under Section 104 of Title 23, United States Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

Section I. Definitions

1. Commercial or industrial activities for purposes of unzoned commercial or industrial areas means those activities generally recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this State, except that none of the following activities shall be considered commercial or industrial:
  - (a) Outdoor advertising structures.
  - (b) Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming, and related activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands.
  - (c) Transient or temporary activities.
  - (d) Activities not visible from the main traveled way.

Activities more than 660 feet from the nearest edge of the right-of-way.

- (f) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence.

Railroad tracks and minor sidings

2. Zoned commercial or industrial areas mean those areas which are zoned for business, industry, commerce, or trade pursuant to a State or local zoning ordinance or regulation.
3. Unzoned commercial or industrial areas mean those areas which are not zoned by State or local law, regulation, or ordinance, and on which there is located one or more permanent structures devoted to a commercial or industrial activity or on which a commercial or industrial activity is actually conducted, whether or not a permanent structure is located thereon, and the area along the highway extending outward 800 feet from and beyond the edge of such activity. Each side of the highway will be considered separately in applying this definition.

All measurements shall be from the outer edges of the regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing and landscaped areas of the commercial or industrial activities, not from the property line of the activities, and shall be along or parallel to the edge or pavement of the highway.

4. National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and Interstate System means the system presently defined in and designated pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 103 of Title 23, United States Code.
5. Federal-aid primary highway means any highway within that portion of the State highway system as designated, or as may hereafter be so designated by the State, which has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 103 of Title 23, United States Code.
6. Traveled way means the portion of a roadway for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders.
7. Main-traveled way means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite directions is a main-traveled way. It does not include such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas.
8. Sign means any outdoor sign, display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing which is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of the advertising or

information contents of which is visible from any part of the main-traveled way of the Interstate or Federal-aid primary highway system.

9. Erect means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or establish, but it shall 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 structure.

Maintain means to allow to exist.

Safety rest area means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the highway right-of-way by or under public supervision or control, for the convenience of the traveling public.

12. Visible means that the advertising copy or informative contents are capable of being seen without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

## Section II. Scope of Agreement

This agreement shall apply to all zoned and unzoned commercial and industrial areas within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of all portions of the Interstate and Federal-aid Primary Systems within the State of North Carolina in which outdoor advertising signs may be visible from the main-traveled way of either or both of said systems.

## Section III. State Control

(a) The State hereby agrees that in all areas within the scope of this agreement, the State shall effectively control, or cause to be controlled, the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays and devices erected subsequent to the effective date of this agreement other than those advertising the sale or lease of the property on which they are located, or activities conducted thereon. Except as herein provided in subsection (b), the following criteria shall apply to the erection and maintenance of such outdoor advertising signs, displays and devices in all zoned and unzoned commercial and industrial areas:

### (1) SIZE OF SIGNS

- a. The maximum area for any one sign shall be 1,200 square feet with a maximum height of 30 feet and

maximum length of 60 feet, inclusive of any border and trim but excluding the base or apron, supports, and other structural members.

- b. The area shall be measured by the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle, or combination thereof which will encompass the entire sign.
- c. The maximum size limitations shall apply to each side of a sign structure; and signs may be placed back-to-back, side-by-side, or in V-type construction with not more than two displays to each facing, and such sign structure shall be considered as one sign.

(2) SPACING OF SIGNS

a. Interstate and Federal-aid Primary Highways.

Signs may not be located in such a manner as to obscure, or otherwise physically interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device, obstruct or physically interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic.

b. Interstate Highways and Freeways on the Federal-aid Primary System.

- 1. No two structures shall be spaced less than 500 feet apart.
- 2. Outside of incorporated towns and cities, no structure may be located adjacent to or within 500 feet of an interchange, intersection at grade, or safety rest area. Said 500 feet to be measured along the Interstate or freeway from the beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main-traveled way.

c. Non-freeway Federal-aid Primary Highways.

- 1. Outside of incorporated towns and cities - no two structures shall be spaced less than 300 feet apart.
- 2. Within incorporated <sup>towns</sup> ~~villages~~ and cities - no two structures shall be spaced less than 100 feet apart.

d. The above spacing-between-structures provisions do not apply to structures separated by buildings or other obstructions in such a manner that only one sign facing located within the above spacing distances is visible from the highway at any one time.

e. Explanatory Notes.

1. Official and "on-premise" signs, as defined in Section 131(c) of Title 23, United States Code, and structures that are not lawfully maintained shall not be counted nor shall measurements be made from them for purposes of determining compliance with spacing requirements.
2. The minimum distance between structures shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs along each side of the highway and shall apply only to structures located on the same side of the highway.

LIGHTING OF SIGNS. RESTRICTIONS

- a. Signs which contain, include, or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights are prohibited, except those giving public service information such as time, date temperature, weather, or similar information.
- b. Signs which are not effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled ways of the Interstate or Federal-aid primary highway and which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle are prohibited.
- c. No sign shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of, or obscures an official traffic sign, device, or signal.
- d. All such lighting shall be subject to any other provisions relating to lighting or signs presently applicable to all highways under the jurisdiction of the State.

When local zoning authorities have established effective control within zoned commercial and industrial areas, through regulations or ordinances with respect to size, lighting, and spacing of outdoor advertising signs consistent with the intent of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and with customary use, the State may notify the Administrator of such effective control. After notification to the Administrator of effective control by the local zoning authority, the size, lighting, and spacing requirements set forth in subsection (a) will not apply to those areas.

Section IV. Interpretation

The provisions contained herein shall constitute the standards for effective control of signs, displays, and devices within the scope of this agreement.

The provisions contained herein pertaining to the size, lighting, and spacing of outdoor advertising signs permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial and industrial areas shall apply only to those signs erected subsequent to the effective date of this agreement except for those signs erected within six months after the effective date of this agreement in zoned or unzoned commercial or industrial areas on land leased prior to such effective date, provided that a copy of such lease be filed with the State Highway Department within 30 days following such effective date.

In the event the provisions of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 are amended by subsequent action of Congress or the State legislation is amended, the parties reserve the rights to re-negotiate this agreement or to modify it to conform with any amendment.

Section V. Effective Date

This agreement shall be effective when Federal funds are made available to the State for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of 23 USC 131.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this agreement this the 7th day of January, 1972.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

By the State Highway Commission

  
D. McLauchlin Faircloth, Chairman

UNITED STATE OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

By:   
Federal Highway Administrator

