

## **PART VI TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS (TODS)**

### **14-51.061 Program Implementation**

- (1)** Part VI of this rule chapter provides eligible local governments with the criteria for Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) and guidance for the installation of TODS on non-limited access facilities on the state highway system in accordance with the MUTCD.
- (2)** Prior to the installation of a TODS the Department must approve, by permit, the design, location, and placement based on the criteria established in this rule chapter.
- (3)** Prior to requesting a permit to install TODS on the state highway system, a local government shall have established, by ordinance, criteria for TODS program eligibility including participant qualifications and location regulations.

*Rulemaking Authority 479.262, FS. Law Implemented 479.262, FS. History—New 6-24-08, Amended 11-24-11.*

### **14-51.062 General Criteria**

- (1)** Development of a TODS program is limited to rural counties meeting the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) criteria as referenced in Section 288.0656, F.S.
- (2)** To qualify as a TODS destination, the tourist-oriented businesses, services, or activities shall meet the following minimum conditions:
  - (a)** The major portion (51%) of income or visitors during the normal business season shall be from tourists not residing within 20 miles of the destination. A business shall not qualify if admission or access is based on a membership fee or other means of exclusive admission, or where minors are excluded.
  - (b)** All state and local building and occupational permits, licensing, and registrations shall be current and in good standing.

*Rulemaking Authority 479.262, FS. Law Implemented 479.262, FS. History—New 6-24-08, Amended 11-24-11.*

### **14-51.063 Location and Placement**

- (1)** TODS may be installed on the state highway system only after permitted by the Department.
  - (a)** TODS shall not be permitted by the Department if they interfere with the effectiveness of other traffic control devices.
  - (b)** TODS shall only be permitted at the nearest intersection providing the most direct practical route to the eligible facility. An additional sign may be approved at the closest state road intersection with a roadway on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) when the nearest state road intersection is not on an SIS facility.
  - (c)** Each destination is limited to one sign panel in each direction of travel on the state highway system.
  - (d)** The maximum distance from the business to where a TODS may be placed on the state highway system shall be 25 miles.
  - (e)** If a facility with state road frontage is more than 10 miles from the nearest state highway system intersection suitable for TODS installation, the jurisdiction with TODS authority may apply for a permit to sign for this facility with a "ONE MILE" advanced TODS sign. This is the only instance an advanced sign may be permitted on the state highway system.

- (2) TODS shall be limited to placement on rural conventional roads, as stated in the MUTCD. TODS shall not be placed within the right of way of limited access facilities. TODS shall not be located in the right of way of a limited access facility interchange regardless of jurisdiction or local road classification.
- (3) The location of other official traffic control devices shall take precedence over the Location of TODS. TODS shall have standard spacing with other traffic control devices shown in Table 1.
- (4) The Department will remove without notice, and with no obligation to relocate the sign or compensate for its removal, any TODS on the state highway system for highway safety or operational purposes or activities including construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.

*Rulemaking Authority 479.262, FS. Law Implemented 479.262, FS. History—New 6-24-08, Amended 11-24-11.*

#### **14-51.064 Trailblazers**

- (1) In accordance with Rule 14-51.012, F.A.C., trailblazers shall be required if a motorist must navigate one or more turns to get from a local road intersection to the destination. All trailblazers required for guidance to a destination shall be in place on the local road system prior to installation of the TODS on the state highway system.
- (2) TODS and trailblazers, on either the state or local road system, shall not be permitted within the boundaries of a community wayfinding guide sign system plan. Removal of TODS within the boundaries of a proposed community wayfinding guide sign system plan is a mandatory condition of community wayfinding guide sign permit approval.

*Rulemaking Authority 479.262, FS. Law Implemented 479.262, FS. History—New 6-24-08, Amended 11-24-11 .*

#### **14-51.065 Design**

- (1) The planning, design, installation, and maintenance of TODS and their supporting structures are the responsibility of the local government and must conform to the criteria in subsection 14-51.014(8), F.A.C., Design Standard Index 17354 and the applicable sections of the MUTCD.
- (2) If different supporting structures are proposed for use on the state highway system, they shall be designed, constructed, and installed to meet the Department's clear zone and safety criteria, including breakaway features. The design shall be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Florida.
- (3) TODS assemblies shall have a maximum of five panels on two posts. TODS assemblies that are designed for a single post shall have a maximum of two panels. Sign panels shall be rectangular in shape and have white lettering on a blue background. The optional top panel may have the text "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" and a pictograph that identifies the TODS program jurisdiction. The other four panels are reserved for qualifying destinations. The panel legend is limited to one destination identification, a pictograph or in its place a cultural, recreational, or general service symbol, the directional arrow, and destination distance. There is a maximum of two lines of legend per destination panel.
- (4) General service, recreational, and cultural interest symbols may not be added as individual auxiliary sign panels to the TODS assembly, but may be contained in the individual panel with the business identification text, in the place of a pictograph. No other type of sign or legend may be added to a TODS assembly.
- (5) After proper notice to the local government, the Department will remove any non-conforming panel.

- (6)** If a destination qualifies for a business logo under Rule Chapter 14-85, F.A.C., it shall not be displayed on an existing TODS, even where it cannot be accommodated by the LOGO sign program. TODS may not be used to trailblaze for LOGO participants.

*Rulemaking Authority 316.0745, 479.262, FS. Law Implemented 316.0745, 479.262, FS. History—New 6-24-08, Amended 11-24-11 .*