

CHAPTER 124 HIGHWAY HELPER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

761—124.1(307) Introduction and purpose. The department operates the highway helper sponsorship program on the primary highways to keep traffic flowing by providing minor breakdown assistance and aiding with traffic control at crash scenes. This chapter establishes the requirements for a sponsorship for this program. The purpose of this sponsorship program is to provide contributory support for the primary road fund. The highway helper fleet is funded through the primary road fund and provides a public service.

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761—124.2(307) Contact information. Information relating to the issuance of requests for proposals when sponsorship opportunities become available may be obtained from the Office of Traffic and Safety, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010, or by telephone at (515)239-1296.

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761—124.3(307) Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Acknowledgment sign” means an official sign placed within the right-of-way which meets all design and placement guidelines for acknowledgment signs as covered in Part 2 of the MUTCD, and all sign design principles covered in the most current edition of the “Standard Highway Signs and Markings Book,” as published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and which is intended only to inform the traveling public that a highway-related service, product or monetary contribution has been sponsored by a person, firm or entity.

“Advertise” means to provide information on a sign which includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: promotional offers, location directions, a listing of amenities, descriptive words or phrases, telephone numbers, Internet addresses including domain names, slogans or any message that is extraneous to the identification of a single-sponsoring person, firm or entity.

“Freeway-primary highway” means those highways under department jurisdiction which have been constructed as a fully controlled access facility with no access to the facility except at established interchanges.

“Highway helper vehicle” means a motor vehicle included in the program as designated by the department.

“Identification” means a display on an acknowledgment sign which is limited to the name of the sponsor or a registered or unregistered trademark in addition to or instead of the name of the sponsor, if such mark is used consistently by the sponsor whenever and wherever the firm’s or entity’s name is visible to the public, and the medium will allow. If multiple trademarks are used by the sponsor, identification is provided only by the one in the simplest form needed to identify the sponsor.

“Interstate highway” means any highway of the primary system at any time officially designated as a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways by the department and approved by the appropriate authority of the federal government.

“Main-traveled way” means the portion of the roadway for movement of vehicles on which through traffic is carried, exclusive of shoulders and auxiliary lanes. In the case of a divided highway, the main-traveled way includes each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite directions, exclusive of frontage roads, turning roadways or parking areas.

“MUTCD” means the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as adopted in 761—Chapter 130.

“Right-of-way” means land area dedicated to public use for the highway and its maintenance, and includes land acquired in fee simple or by permanent easement for highway purposes, but does not include temporary easements or rights for supplementary highway appurtenances.

“Sponsor” means a single person, firm or entity which has been approved by the department for the highway helper sponsorship program. If the highway helper sponsorship program includes more than one urban area, this definition shall not preclude the approval of one sponsor per urban area.

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761—124.4(307) General provisions.

124.4(1) *Program ownership and operation.* The department shall retain ownership and operation of the highway helper program.

124.4(2) *Monetary contributions.* Subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 23A, the department may, through an equitable procurement process, receive a monetary contribution from an approved sponsor. This monetary contribution shall be deposited into the primary road fund and subsequently spent for highway purposes, including the maintenance and operation of the highway helper sponsorship program.

124.4(3) *Placement of signs.* Subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 321.253, the department may erect acknowledgment signs within the right-of-way along the main-traveled way of any interstate or freeway-primary highway patrolled by the highway helper vehicles.

124.4(4) *Program discontinuance.* The department shall have the right to discontinue the program, or portions thereof, if the program or any component part of the program is found to be in violation of federal law or regulation.

124.4(5) *Termination of sponsorship agreement.* The department shall have the right to terminate a sponsorship agreement for reasons, as determined by the department, based on safety concerns, interference with the free and safe flow of traffic, or a determination that the sponsorship agreement or acknowledgment sign is not in the public interest.

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761—124.5(307) Sponsorship agreements.

124.5(1) *Federal Highway Administration approval.* All sponsorship agreements are subject to approval by the Federal Highway Administration.

124.5(2) *Qualifications.* A person, firm or entity may be eligible to participate as a sponsor for the program. However, the department may deny the proposal or application from any potential sponsor if the sponsor's participation might be deemed by the state as a partisan endorsement or have an adverse effect on the program.

124.5(3) *Selection process.* Sponsors will be approved through a fair and transparent procurement process, as approved by the department, subject to the provisions of 761—Chapter 20.

124.5(4) *Sponsor benefits.* Subject to terms mutually agreed upon by the department and sponsor during or following the procurement process, the following benefits may be offered:

a. Identification of the sponsor on acknowledgment signs along the interstate or freeway-primary highway, subject to rule 761—124.6(307).

b. Placement of the sponsor's name and logo on a highway helper vehicle, not to exceed the dimension and size requirements for the particular highway helper vehicle, as determined by the department.

124.5(5) *Discrimination prohibited.* As a condition of approval as a sponsor, the sponsor shall give the department written assurance of the sponsor's conformity with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination based on age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion or disability.

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761—124.6(307) Acknowledgment sign criteria.**124.6(1) *Identification displayed.***

a. An acknowledgment sign shall not advertise.

b. An acknowledgment sign shall not contain any messages, lights, symbols or trademarks that resemble any official traffic control device.

c. An acknowledgment sign shall contain the appropriate lettering to indicate "HIGHWAY HELPER" and may contain an identification of one sponsor.

d. The department shall review the acknowledgment sign proposed by the sponsor and shall have full authority to determine whether proposed designs from sponsors advertise or provide identification.

e. The department shall not approve any acknowledgment sign proposed by the sponsor if the sign might be deemed a partisan endorsement or have an adverse effect on the program.

124.6(2) *Design and placement of acknowledgment sign.*

a. The department shall determine when adequate spacing is available to accommodate the placement of an acknowledgment sign in accordance with the MUTCD.

b. No more than one acknowledgment sign per interstate or freeway-primary route per direction shall be installed within an urban area. If routes run concurrently, each route may be afforded one acknowledgment sign per direction, at the department's discretion.

c. The entire sign display area shall not exceed 24 square feet.

d. The area reserved for the identification of the sponsor shall not exceed one-third of the total area of the sign, shall be a maximum of 8 square feet, and shall not be located at the top of the sign.

e. Sponsors must provide signs measuring 24 inches high and 48 inches wide that are fabricated from .080 aluminum with 2-inch radius corners and have a ½-inch white border for placement on the acknowledgment signs.

f. The department shall inspect signs received from sponsors, and if the signs meet the requirements contained in this rule, the department shall perform the installation.

g. All acknowledgment signs erected by the department shall conform to the MUTCD.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code subsection 23A.2(9) and Iowa Code section 307.24.

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