

February 24, 2026
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE
215

SUBJECT: ANIMAL WARNING SIGNS

The purpose of this Directive is to establish criteria for the installation of appropriate animal warning signs in accordance with the MUTCD.

Warning sign assemblies may be installed when Division of Highways records indicate that one of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1. For any one (1) year there should be at least seven (7) deer involved crashes within a three (3)-mile section of roadway.**
- 2. For any one (1) year there should be at least two (2) bear involved crashes per mile.**
- 3. For any one (1) year there should be at least eight (8) total large animal involved crashes within a three (3)-mile section of roadway. Deer and bear crashes may be counted towards meeting these criteria.**
- 4. For any one (1) year there should be at least two (2) elk involved crashes per mile.**
- 5. The use of other signs depicting other animal types is allowed, but must be approved by Traffic Engineering Division on a case by case basis.**

The specific sign used should be the most appropriate animal type as determined by records. All animal warning sign assemblies shall also include a mileage plaque (W7-3aP) specifying NEXT 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2 or 3 miles. If a continuous animal crossing area extends beyond three (3) miles, additional sign assemblies should be installed every three (3) miles.

Ted Whitmore, Director
Traffic Engineering Division