

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
INSTRUCTIONAL & INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs		NUMBER: IIM-TE-353.1
		SUPERSEDES: TE-353
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Pedestrians With Disabilities Signs		DATE: August 18, 2016
		SUNSET DATE: Upon Incorporation into the VA Supplement
DIRECTED TO: Regional Operations Directors Regional Traffic Engineers Residency Engineers/Administrators Regional Operations Maintenance Managers	APPROVAL: /original signed by/ Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Richmond, VA August 18, 2016	

Changes are shaded.

This memorandum establishes that VDOT ~~will no longer~~ does not post signs for warning the motoring public that persons with disabilities might be present in or near the roadway. Any signs ~~now in place that were placed in accordance with TE-204~~ placed prior to September 2007 in accordance with previous policies may remain until the child in question reaches the age of thirteen, moves from the community, or the sign must be removed due to maintenance/re-construction needs/efforts.

~~This directive shall not be interpreted to mean VDOT is opposed to warning sign that warn of potential juvenile pedestrian activity in or near the roadway. Instead, VDOT will install a "Watch for Children" sign (or signs) as prescribed by TE-280.~~ This directive does not affect VDOT's policies regarding "Watch For Children" signs as explained in the [latest effective revision to TE Memorandum 280](#).

Background:

VDOT is frequently asked to post signs warning that people (particularly children) with disabilities might be expected to be in or near the roadway.

~~To date, VDOT, through written directive, has~~ Prior to September 2007, VDOT sanctioned only one sign for warning of people with a disability for children with the disability of deafness. Among other restrictions, it has been clearly stated that signing for children with a deafness disability may be considered for a hearing impaired child up to and including the age of twelve

years old and that letter of certification from a licensed physician, audiologist, or speech and language pathologist must be provided stating the extent of hearing loss.

In evaluating whether similar directives should be drafted for signs addressing blindness/vision impairments, Autism, Down's syndrome, etc., VDOT has concluded that it cannot meet the obligations of the Federal and State codes developed in recent times and enacted to protect a citizen privacy. In part, our decision was based on input from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD). In a statement from that Board, there are references that support this conclusion. ~~A copy of that Board's statement is attached.~~

In a further effort to evaluate the most suited position that could be taken in particular regarding the disabilities of deafness/hearing impairments and blindness/vision impairments, VDOT also solicited comments from the Virginia Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) and the Virginia Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired (VDBVI). Both of these agencies representatives agreed with the statements provided by VBPD. ~~Documents are attached for reference.~~

CC:

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District Engineers/Administrators
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