

Subject: Capital/PAYG- Regulatory signage

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/13/2017

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. John Vihstadt at the work session on 4/4/2017, regarding a request for more details on federal guidance issued on signs and the prioritization that the County uses for creating and replacing regulatory signage. Are there time constraints from federal guidelines in making updates to signage?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which governs the use of regulatory signage and markings for streets, highways and trails. All State DOTs and local transportation departments across the country must comply with the MUTCD, which is periodically revised by FHWA. On January 25, 2016, FHWA published a notice in the Federal Register issuing new guidance on the use of font types on regulatory signage. This change grandfathers signs that were installed using the Clearview font type, but stipulates that going forward, all agencies shall use the current FHWA Standards Alphabet for all new and replacement signs. This action means that there is no specific schedule requirement for Arlington to change out a large body of regulatory signage.

The \$70,000 requested in the FY 2018 PAYG budget will fund the ongoing maintenance and periodic replacement of Arlington's 130,000+ regulatory signs. Arlington County's program replaces aging signs in one to two neighborhoods per year, thus cycling through all neighborhoods approximately every 15-20+ years. Existing street signs are assessed and replaced as needed. Damaged signs are withdrawn from inventory and recycled through the County metal recycling program.

Costs of new street signs vary slightly depending on the size of the sign and lettering, but the average cost per sign is \$40.00. Funding of the sign replacement program is built into the operating budget of the Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau.