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May 2022

To all Candidates – 2022 Municipal Election

Re: Election Signs

The City of Cornwall has a by-law which regulates the placement of notices and signs on City streets and public property (walkways, parks, etc.) Violations of the by-law expose both the offender and the City to possible legal actions from a third party.

Generally speaking, By-law #056-2003 regulates the posting or erecting of any signs, posters, or notices within the right-of-way. This includes posting same on trees, posts, fences, etc., or erecting/placing signs on walks, boulevards and parks which are City property.

This “Streets By-law” does not affect private properties which are subject to the signs by-law and zoning restrictions as enforced by the Chief Building Official.

The “Streets By-law” is designed to protect the public, utilities and utility workers from the hazards of indiscriminately placed or installed signs, posters and notices.

As well as the third-party aspect, a penalty clause is incorporated in the by-law. Subsequently, in the past, when the Department of Public Works has been forced to take necessary steps to correct situations related to improper posting/placement of election signs, the offending individual(s) has been billed for any costs incurred by the City.

Sincerely,

Manon L. Levesque
City Clerk

Election Signs

Please be advised that no election signs are permitted on any street, park or public property within the City of Cornwall.

By-Law 056-2003 - Streets By-Law

This regulation contained in By-law 056-2003 known as the Streets By-law. Prohibition of Signs - Section 4(6) is cited:

4.(6) No person shall erect or place, cause to be erected or placed or maintained, including but not limited to, any building, fence, hedge, movable trap or door, private walk with step, porch, sign, ramp, shrub, step or other entrance to a structure or other obstruction on, over, projecting into or under any street, park or other public property.

By-Law 154-2008 - Election Sign By-Law

Further regulation is contained in By-law 154-2008 as amended, known as the By-law to Regulate Election Signs in the City of Cornwall.

As a guideline, on most city residential streets, the property line is approximately 20 feet back from the edge of the road. Fire hydrants, utility poles, telephone pedestals and sidewalks are on all City property. Therefore, Election Signs must be back of these structures. On many streets, the location of fences and hedges also gives a good indication of the property line.

Signs installed on City property could damage underground wiring for electric, telephone and cable services as well as restrict visibility for traffic.

Please review the proposed location of your signs and inform the people who will be working with/for you during your election campaign of the restrictions and prohibitions of By-law 056-2003.

**The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
By-law # 154-2008**

A By-law to Regulate Election Signs in the City of Cornwall

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a Council of a municipality may pass a By-law for the prohibition or regulation of the erection of signs and other advertising devices; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Cornwall deems it advisable to have a by-law regulating the location and posting of all election signs for Federal, Provincial and Municipal elections; and

WHEREAS the Council has determined that, for the purpose of aesthetics and public safety, it wishes to regulate the placement of election signs on, over, in or under any public highway, sidewalk, bridge or other municipal property under its jurisdiction.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CORNWALL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. For the purpose of the By-law:

a) “election sign” means any type of sign or other form of display that promotes directly or indirectly the candidacy of any person for election to public office;

b) “public office” means any position to which a person is elected by general election and without limiting its generality, includes a member of the Parliament of Canada, a member of the Legislative Assembly for the Province of Ontario, a member of a council of a municipality, and a member of a board of school trustees;

c) “road allowance” means the allowance for a public road and includes the travelled and un-travelled portions of the road allowance, the road shoulders, ditches, boulevards, and sidewalks.

d) “streets” means the entire right-of-way of a common and public highway which includes but is not limited to alleys, avenues, bridges, boulevards, circles, courts, crescents, drives, driveways, lanes, parkways, paths, places, roads, squares, streets, terraces, trestles and viaducts.

2. No person shall locate, erect, post, place or otherwise display an election sign within the limits of any road allowance within the limits of the City of Cornwall.

3. Election signs associated with federal or provincial elections shall not be erected or installed earlier than the official date of notice of the date of voting for any federal or provincial election with the exception of signage at a campaign headquarters.

4. Election signs associated with a municipal election shall not be erected or installed prior to ~~October 1st~~ September 17th (*amended by Bylaw 2010-008*) in an election year with the exception of signage at campaign headquarters.

5. Notwithstanding Section 4, election signs associated with a municipal election shall not be erected until the candidate has been nominated, in accordance to the Municipal Elections Act.

6. **STREETS BY-LAW** (excerpt)

a) In accordance with the Streets By-law 056-2003 the following shall apply to this By-law: "No person shall erect or place, cause to be erected or placed, or maintained, including but not limited to, any building, fence, hedge, movable trap or door, private walk with step, porch, sign, ramp, shrub, step or other entrance to a structure, or other obstruction on, over, projecting into, or under any street, park, or other public property." Fire hydrants, utility poles, bell telephone pedestals and sidewalks are all on City property and therefore all signs must be back of these structures. General Guideline to most City Residential streets, indicates that the property line is approximately 20 feet back from the edge of the road.

b) No election sign shall be placed on a public sidewalk or in such other location on, over or near a sidewalk so as to interfere with or obstruct normal pedestrian traffic.

c) No election sign shall be affixed to any traffic control sign, guardrail or other form of traffic safety structure or facility, utility pole or equipment, or any other similar type of sign, structure, facility or equipment located within the limits of a road allowance.

d) No election sign shall be posted on any tree located within a road allowance.

e) No election sign shall be located, erected, posted, placed or otherwise displayed on any other municipal property, including but not limited to parkland, and other lands, buildings and facilities owned by the City of Cornwall.

7. **SIGHT TRIANGLE - ROAD ALLOWANCE**

No election sign shall be located within 15 meters (48.75 feet) of an intersection of streets. Notwithstanding the preceding, the Transportation Engineer may determine whether further corner sight line clearance is required.

8. POLLING STATION RESTRICTIONS

No election sign may be located within 150 feet of any polling station, including the parking lot and road allowance in front of a polling station.

9. REMOVAL OF ELECTION SIGNS

All election signs shall be removed within five (5) days of the day on which the election is held.

10. CONTRAVENTION OF BY-LAW

Where election signs have been posted in contravention of this By-law or any other by-law the City may:

- a) Notify the owner, candidate or their agent to repair or remove the sign, or take the necessary action to make the sign comply with the provisions of this By-law ; or
- b) Remove the sign.

11. PERMITS

No special permit shall be required for election signs as required under the Signs By-law 057-1982 as amended yet shall comply with all sections of this By-law.

12. Where there exists a conflict between any municipal By-law, the stricter By-law shall prevail.

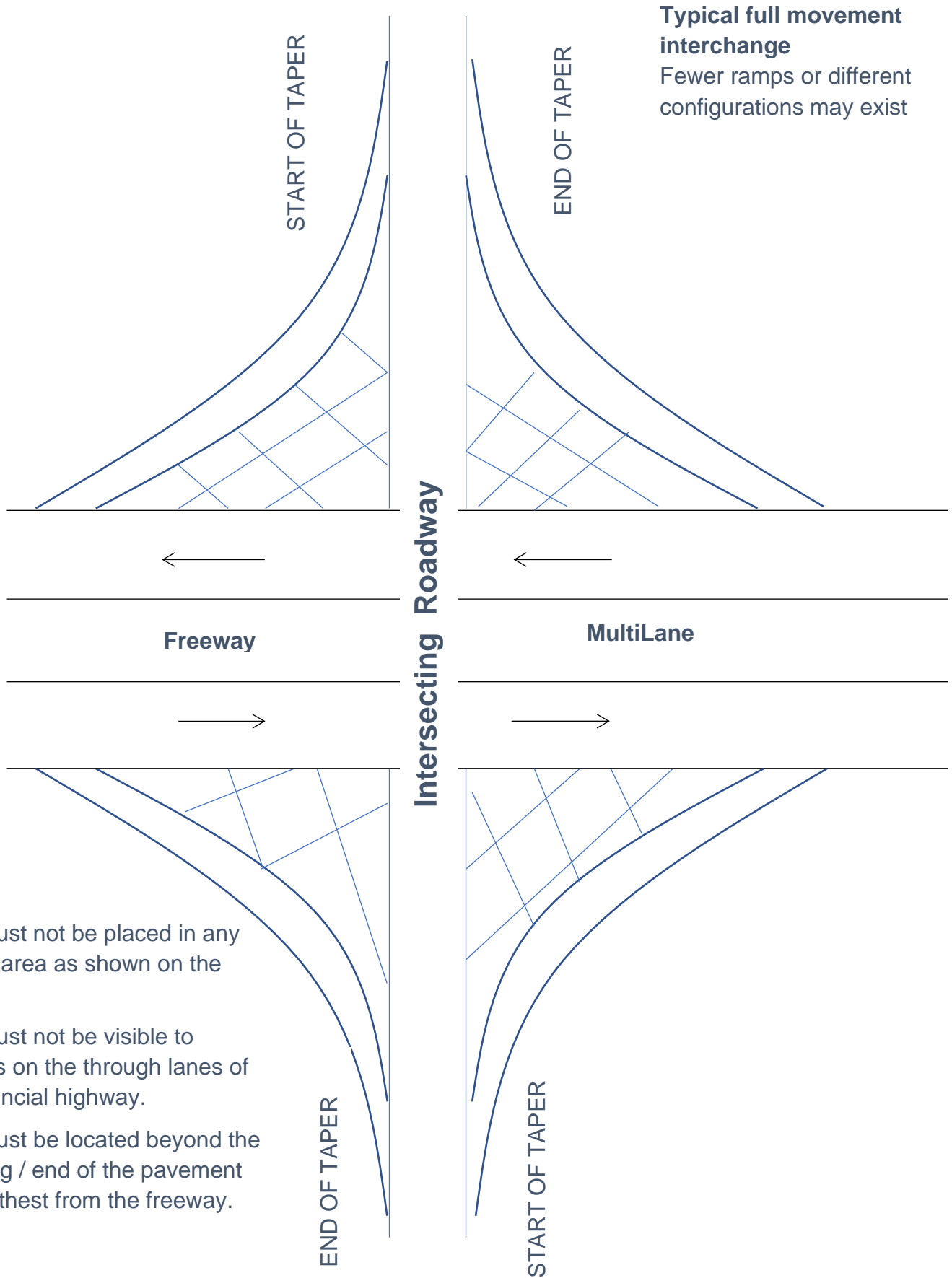
Read a first, second and third time, signed and sealed, in open Council, this 27th day of October, 2008.

Election Sign Regulation, Ontario Ministry of Transportation

Under the authority of the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act*, the Ministry of Transportation, through the issuance of a permit, controls all visible signing upon or within 400 metres of the provincial highway right-of-way.

Election signs placed by, or on behalf of, a candidate or a political party and signs designed to encourage citizens to vote must follow these restrictions governing election signs that are visible from a provincial highway system.

1. An election sign must not be placed upon or adjacent to the right-of-way of a Class 1 – Freeway or a Class 2 – Staged Freeway (i.e. Hwy 401, 115, etc.). See attached typical diagram for freeway / staged freeway interchange election sign placement;
2. Election signs may be erected on the right-of-way or adjacent to a Special Controlled Access, Major or Minor Highway (i.e. Hwy 7, Hwy 35) after an official election has been issued or for municipal elections in accordance with any By-law outlining a time frame for the placement of municipal election campaign signs;
3. Signs up to 0.7 m² (8 sq. ft.) in size must be placed at least 4 m (12 ft.) from edge of pavement. Signs over 0.7 m² (40 sq. ft.) must be placed at the outer limit of the right-of-way (i.e. fence line). Election signs must not exceed 3.7 m² (40 sq. ft.);
4. An “election sign” must not be affixed to a permanent or an official sign or to guide rail or other highway structure or facility and must not be placed where it may interfere with visibility, an official sign, traffic signal or other safety device;
5. Portable read-o-graph sign trailers must not be placed upon a provincial highway right-of-way. Portable read-o-graph sign trailers may be utilized providing they are erected on private property that is zoned commercial and meets all the requirements for the Ministry of Transportation for portable read-o-graph signing;
6. A Sign Permit or a Letter of Approval for any signs erected under these instructions is not required; and
7. Election signs must be removed from the Ministry of Transportation right-of-way and adjacent properties within three (3) working days after Election Day.



Typical full movement interchange
 Fewer ramps or different configurations may exist

Signs must not be placed in any hatched area as shown on the sketch.

Signs must not be visible to motorists on the through lanes of the provincial highway.

Signs must be located beyond the beginning / end of the pavement taper furthest from the freeway.