

Princeton Township, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota

10039 55th Street, Princeton, MN 55371

Traffic Sign Policy –

Introduction:

This policy establishes uniformity in the installation and maintenance of traffic signs on Princeton Township roads by recognizing and following the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MnMUTCD) as the standard for all traffic control devices on all roads open to public travel in Minnesota. Therefore, all traffic control devices used on Princeton Township roads will conform to the standards and specification per Minnesota Statute 169.06.

Purpose:

This policy defines how traffic signs will be maintained to assure compliance with retro-reflectivity requirements; and that Princeton Township achieves compliance through a standardized replacement program to assure replacement within specified lifetime of signage per manufacturer specifications.

It is in the best interest of safety for the public to prevent excessive traffic signs, to improve effectiveness of signage and reducing unnecessary costs due to over signage.

Policy:

Princeton Township roads traffic signs will be in conformance with the MnMUTCD specifications and be replaced based on the expected life following a blanket replacement intervals program. Further, traffic signs not required will not be installed on our Township roads unless authorized by the Township Board of Supervisors and included in the master listing of Township signage.

Removal of Excess Signs:

In recognition of the fact that excess road signs have been shown to reduce the effectiveness of signage, as well as impose an unnecessary financial burden on the road authority, it shall be the policy of Princeton Township to remove signs determined to be unnecessary for safety purposes and which are not otherwise required to comply with an applicable state or federal statute or regulation. The removal of signs shall be based on an engineering study and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Particular attention shall be paid to recommendations on signage for roads considered to be “low-volume” under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as adopted by the State.

Traffic Signs Retro-Reflectivity Management Method

Princeton Township roads traffic signs will follow Section 2A.8 of the MnMUTCD, which stipulates:

“All signs in an area/corridor, or of a given type, should be replaced at specified intervals. This eliminates the need to assess retro-reflectivity or track the life of individual signs. The replacement Interval is based on the expected sign life, compared to the minimum levels, for the shortest life material used on the affected signs.”

Replacement of the Township's traffic signs will be based upon the expected life of a sign as determined by the manufacturer's warranty period. The replacement interval is not dependent on the Traffic Sign location or orientation.

On-going Maintenance:

The township shall include a general inspection of road signs in township right-of-ways as part of its annual road inspections. The town shall update its sign inventory as necessary on an annual basis. The Township shall remove and replace any sign which becomes damaged, missing, etc. upon notification to the Town Board.

Review of Policy and Modification if Necessary:

To ensure standards and guidance is in alignment with future revision of the MnMUTCD, AASHTO, manuals and policies and Traffic Engineering conventions this policy will be reviewed annually and as necessary, to facilitate ongoing compliance.

Adopted by Resolution # 2020-14 of Princeton Township Board on June 16, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-14

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
PRINCETON TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PRINCETON TOWNSHIP SIGN INVENTORY AND
REPLACEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED AT THE JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, the township road signs are nearing replacement time; and


WHEREAS, the preferred system of replacement is on a schedule, rather than by test;
and

WHEREAS, the road manager has worked with the township engineer to reduce the sign
inventory to approximately 110 signs:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Princeton Township adopt the sign
inventory and replacement plan as presented to the Town Board on June 16, 2020.

Adopted this 16th day of June, 2020.

BY THE TOWN BOARD



Town Chairperson

Attest: 

Town Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Whitcomb, Supervisor – Princeton Township
RE: Township Road Signs
CC: Connie Wubben, Clerk
FROM: Todd McLouth, PE
DATE: 5-22-19

REMARKS: Bill, I have some comments and recommendations for the Township's road signs. I will try to highlight the issues and we can discuss them further later.

I attended a traffic sign seminar last fall hosted by MN LTAP and Howard Preston (one of the top sign guys in the country). You may be able to find the seminar on line at MN LTAP "MN's Best Practices for Traffic Sign Maintenance and Management". Drivers and attorneys are getting smarter when it comes to accidents and traffic signs and liability. And the state is finding that there are too many signs. Therefore, MN MUTCD (MN Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) is promoting less signs is better.

Per MN MUTCD, only 5 regulatory signs are required:

- Speed Limit (if different than statutory limit)
- One Way / Do Not Enter
- Turn Prohibition
- All Way (Stop) Supplementary Plaque
- STOP or YIELD at RR Crossings

Yes, it is correct, STOP signs are not required. MN MUTCD states that STOP signs should be used on the results of an engineering study. MN Statute 169.30 also says that normally it is desirable to erect STOP signs at all public entrances to highways.

For low volume rural roads (less than 400 ADT) – such as townships – the only sign that is required is a STOP or YIELD at a RR crossings.

Retroreflectivity

MN has adopted the federal highway admin. rules for retroreflectivity. All regulatory, warning and guide signs and object markers are required to be retroreflective. These signs need to be maintained and replaced when not effective anymore.

There are choices to do this:

Assessment Methods

- Visual nighttime assessment (inspection needs to follow specific rules)
This takes time and training. It is hard to be consistent when multiple people are involved and different vehicles are used.
- Measured sign retroreflectivity.
This takes time and is costly. One must buy or rent a retroreflectometer. Or hire a company to do the testing. My conversations with MnDOT on this is that testing is tedious. For a STOP sign one must take 10 tests and average the results – for each color, red & white. So you can see the time and money involved.

Management Methods

- Expected sign life (15 +/- years)
Each sign is dated and replaced at the end of its life cycle
- Blanket Replacement
All signs within an area are replaced at specific intervals (12-15 years)

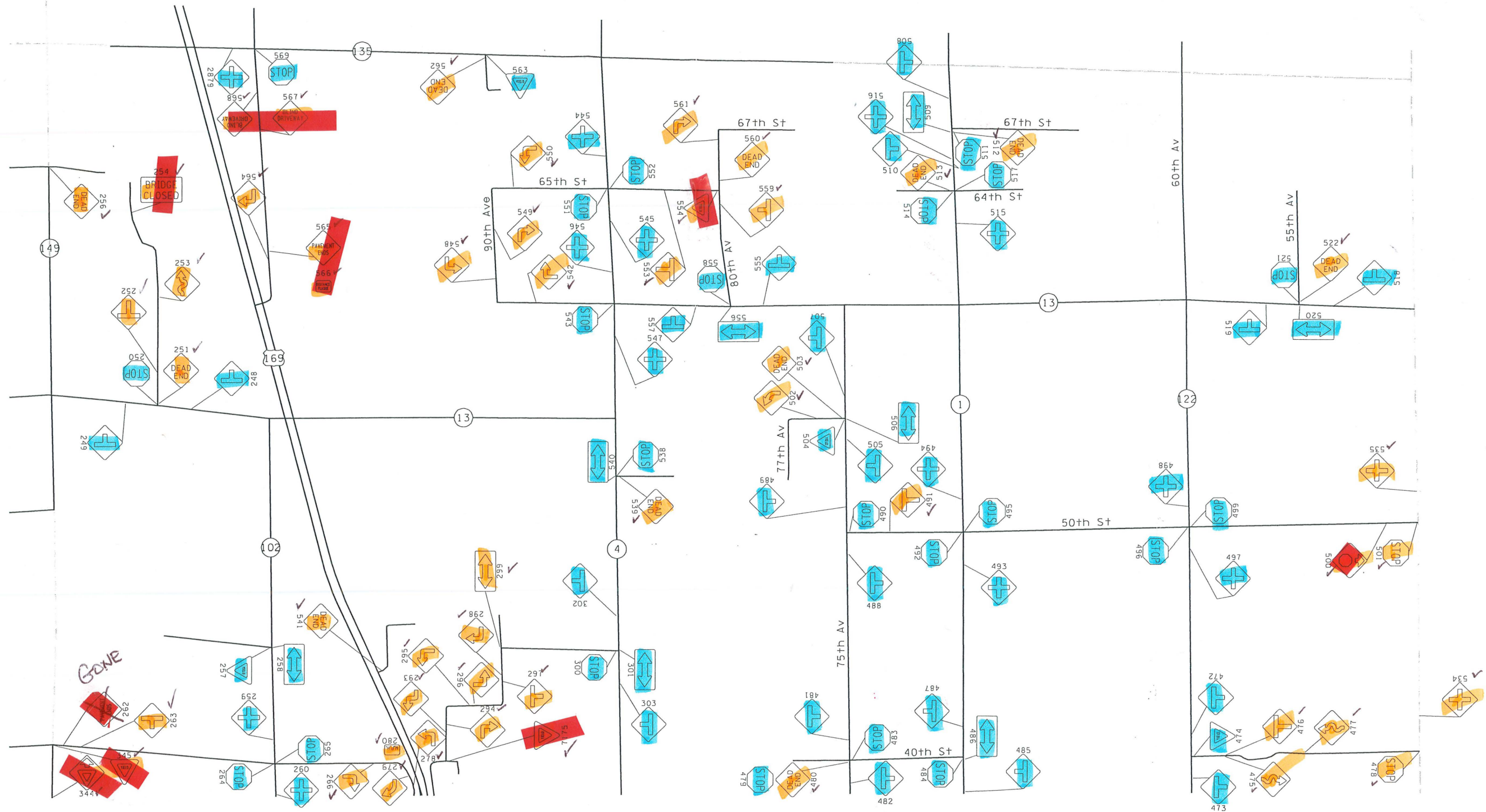
When the County replaced all the Twp signs years ago I urged the Twp to adopt the blanket replacement method for managing and maintaining their signs. I promoted they break up the Twp into areas and start a sign fund so that every 12-15 year cycle the Twp replaces those signs. (this would be just the sign panels – not the posts, unless warranted). This way they will know the costs and can plan for it. No testing is required and you don't have to keep track of individual sign installations. No action was taken as far as I know.

Sign Policy

The Twp. should adopt a sign maintenance and management policy. There are numerous sample policies out there to use as a guide. MN tort law provides protection from claims of negligence called 'discretionary immunity' for actions that are consistent with policies adopted by a public agency. I'm not sure the Twp. has one.

Lots to chew on but I hope this helps.





MILLE LACS CO. = 68
PTS = 52

TOTALS FOR BOTH SHEETS
MILLE LACS CO. = 130
PTS = 165

6-8-20 REMOVING 55 KEEPING 110

2500
SCALE IN FEET

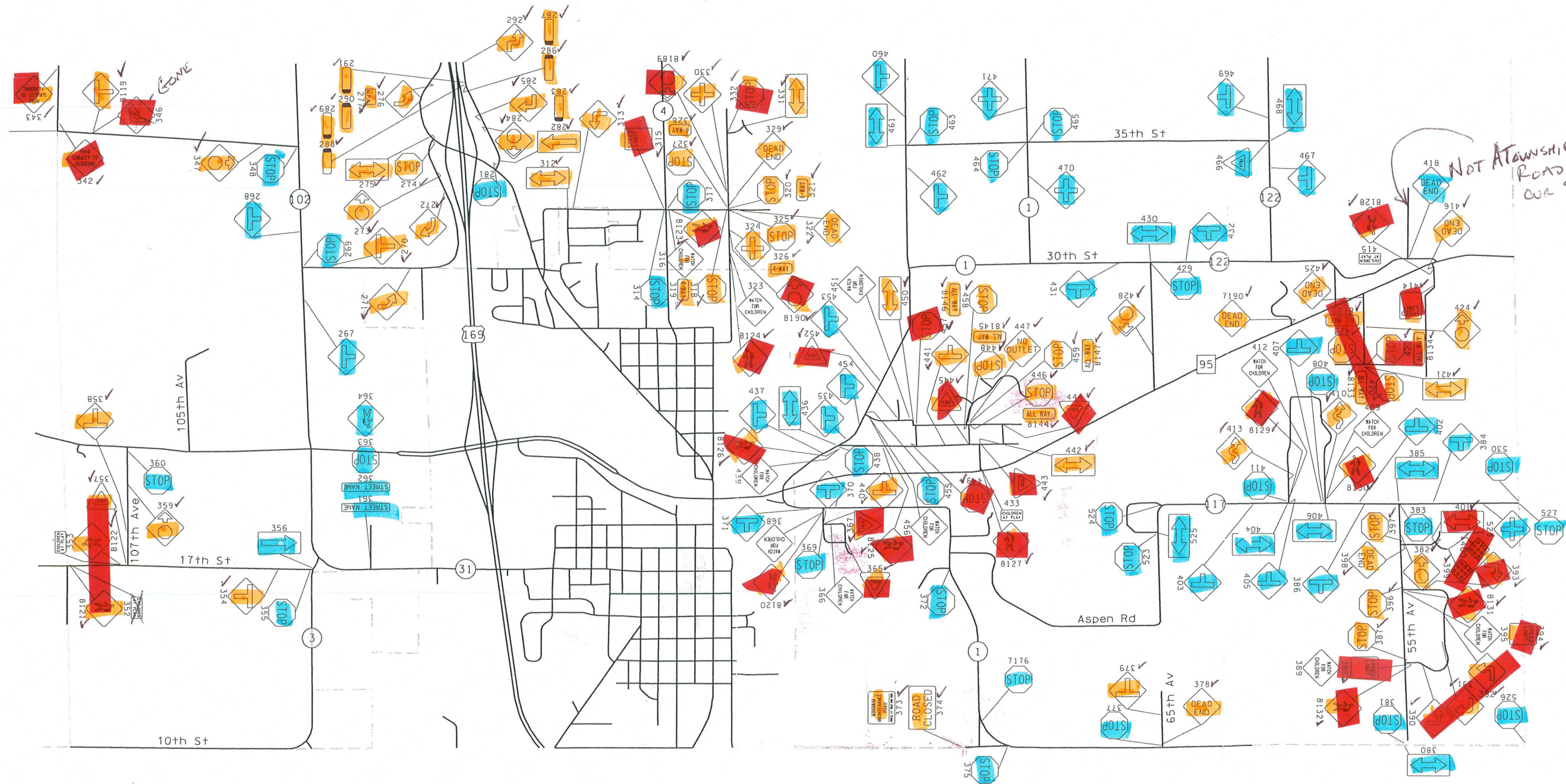
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
CERTIFIED BY *Jeffrey A. Hilden* 6/5/08
NAME: JEFFREY A. HILDEN DATE: 6/5/08
LIC. NO. 20781

DRAWN: DRS
DESIGNED: JAH
CHECKED: JRY



SIGNING PLANS
NORTH HALF PRINCETON TOWNSHIP
STATE PROJ. NO. 48-070-02

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MILLE LACS COUNTY
SHEET NO. 106 OF 120 SHEETS



12:14:31 PM

11/21/2008

9 FILE ABBREV

MILLE LACS Co
= 62
PTS = 113

2500
SCALE IN FEET

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
CERTIFIED BY Jeffrey A. Hilden 6/5/08
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER DATE
NAME: JEFFREY A. HILDEN LIC. NO. 20781

DRAWN: DRS
DESIGNED: JAH
CHECKED: JRY



SIGNING PLANS
SOUTH HALF PRINCETON TOWNSHIP
STATE PROJ. NO. 48-070-02

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MILLE LACS COUNTY
SHEET NO. 107 OF 120 SHEETS

Remove ?	Comments	Sign ID No.	Sign Code	Sign Panel Legend	Township/Owner	Sign Panel Width (in)	Sign Panel Height (in)	Sign Condition	Route	Reference Point	Reference Point Distance (ft)	GPS Latitude	GPS Longitude	Structure Condition	Sign Structure Type	Mounting Height (ft)	Offset (ft)	Substrate	Sign Sheeting Material	Direction Sign Faces
	Keep - Advanced warning	251	W14-1	DEAD END	PRINCETON	30	30	Field Inventory Report	105th Ave	CO RD 13	105	45.6254408	-93.6255718		2U	5		Aluminum		South
	Keep - Advanced warning	252	W2-4	T intersection	PRINCETON	30	30		105th Ave	CO RD 13	897	45.6273964	-93.6256701		2U	5		Aluminum		North
	Keep - Advanced warning	253	W1-5(L)	Winding road - left	PRINCETON	30	30		105th Ave	CO RD 13	2640	45.6322009	-93.6254124		2U	5		Aluminum		South
X	Remove - there hasn't been a bridge in place for decades	254	R11-2a	BRIDGE CLOSED	PRINCETON	48	30		105th Ave	CO RD 13	4857	45.6376069	-93.6278945		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		South
	Keep - Advanced warning	256	W14-1	DEAD END	PRINCETON	30	30		65th Ave	CO RD 149	105	45.6404836	-93.6349415		2U	5		Aluminum		West
X	Already Gone	262	W8-3	PAVEMENT ENDS	PRINCETON	30	30		40th St		264	45.6038242	-93.6343817		2U	5		Aluminum		East
	Keep - Advanced warning	263	W2-2(L)	Side road 90 degree - left	PRINCETON	30	30		40th St		686	45.6036999	-93.6328196		2U	5		Aluminum		East
	Keep - Advanced warning	266	W1-1(R)	Turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30		40th St		7550	45.6024553	-93.6063619		2U	5		Aluminum		West
	Keep - Advanced warning	270	W2-4	T intersection	PRINCETON	30	30		BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	868	45.5882772	-93.6123345		2U	5		Aluminum		East
	Keep - Advanced warning	271	W1-2(L)	Curve - left	PRINCETON	30	30		BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	2428	45.5880321	-93.6055627		2U	5		Aluminum		West
	Keep - Advanced warning	272	W1-2(R)	Curve - right	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	4910	45.5925409	-93.6026603		2U	5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Approaches a CNTY RD	273	W3-1	Stop ahead	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	5385	45.5937363	-93.6031981		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Approaches a CNTY RD	274	R1-1	STOP	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	6177	45.595632	-93.603564		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	275	W1-7	Large arrow - double head	PRINCETON	48	24	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	6230	45.5958287	-93.6034401		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	276	W1-2(L)	Curve - left	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	7550	45.5990885	-93.603897		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		West	
	Keep - Collector Road	277	W13-1	40 MPH	PRINCETON	18	18	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	7550	45.5990885	-93.603897			5		Aluminum		West	
	Keep - Advanced warning	278	W1-1(L)	Turn - left	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	8342	45.6010218	-93.6028471		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	279	W1-2(L)	Curve - right	PRINCETON	30	30	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	8606	45.6015779	-93.6033489		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Collector Road	280	W13-1	40 MPH	PRINCETON	18	18	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	CO RD 102	8606	45.6015779	-93.6033489			5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	282	W1-6(R)	Large arrow - right	PRINCETON	48	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	211	45.5944207	-93.5979389		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	283	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	211	45.5944207	-93.5979389			4		Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	North	
	Keep - Sight distance to STOP sign is only 125'	284	W3-1	Stop ahead	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	950	45.5961839	-93.5991577		2U	5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	285	W1-1(R)	Turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	1214	45.5968449	-93.5995841		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	286	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2059	45.5988953	-93.6008667	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	287	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2059	45.5988953	-93.6008667	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	288	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2112	45.5990132	-93.6009061	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	289	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2112	45.5990132	-93.6009061	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	290	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2112	45.5991349	-93.6009363	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	291	X4-6	Guide delineator	PRINCETON	8	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2112	45.5991349	-93.6009363	Fair				Aluminum	ENGINEERING GRADE	North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	292	W1-3(R)	Reverse turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	2587	45.6034441	-93.6009833		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	293	W1-3(R)	Reverse turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	4382	45.6043669	-93.599991		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	294	W1-1(R)	Turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	4540	45.6048652	-93.599895		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	295	W1-1(L)	Turn - left	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	5544	45.6060885	-93.5978249		2U	5		Aluminum		East	
	Keep - Advanced warning	296	W1-1(L)	Turn - left	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	5702	45.6061705	-93.5973808		2U	5		Aluminum		West	
	Keep - Advanced warning	297	W2-2(R)	Side road 90 degree - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	6811	45.6075484	-93.5948173		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	298	W1-1(R)	Turn - right	PRINCETON	30	30	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	6969	45.6079549	-93.5949493		2U	5		Aluminum		North	
	Keep - Advanced warning	299	W1-7	Large arrow - double head	PRINCETON	48	24	Brickton Rd	CO RD 29	7656	45.6097394	-93.5950707		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		East	
	Keep - Advanced warning	312	W1-7	Large arrow - double head	PRINCETON	48	24	33rd Ave		528	45.591566	-93.5922239		2U-1A	5		Aluminum		South	
	Keep - Advanced warning	313	W1-1(L)	Turn - left	PRINCETON	30	30	33rd Ave		686	45.5915559	-93.5917845		2U	5		Aluminum		East	
X	Remove - not consistent with the rest of the township	315	R2-1	SPEED LIMIT 30	PRINCETON	24	30	33rd Ave		2640	45.5914673	-93.5841199		2U	5		Aluminum		East	
	Keep	318	R1-1	STOP	PRINCETON	30	30	33rd Ave		4488	45.5913095	-93.5788009		2U	5		Aluminum		West	
	Replace	319	R1-3	4-WAY Should be ALL WAY	PRINCETON	12	6	33rd Ave		4488	45.5913095	-93.5788009					Aluminum		West	
	Keep	320	R1-1	STOP	PRINCETON	30	30	33rd Ave		4593	45.5914255	-93.578547		2U	5		Aluminum		East	
	Replace	321	R1-3	4-WAY Should be ALL WAY	PRINCETON	12	6	33rd Ave		4593	45.5914255	-93.578547					Aluminum		East	
	Keep - Advanced warning	322	W14-1	DEAD END	PRINCETON	30	30	33rd Ave		4646	45.5913253	-93.5783881		2U	5		Aluminum		West	
	Keep	325	R1-1	STOP	PRINCETON	30	30	82ND AV		1003	45.5912768	-93.5785874		2U	5		Aluminum		South	
	Replace	326	R1-3	4-WAY Should be ALL WAY	PRINCETON	12	6	82ND AV		1003	45.5912768	-93.5785874					Aluminum		South	
	Keep	327	R1-1	STOP	PRINCETON	30	30	82ND AV		1056	45.591512	-93.5787584		2U	5		Aluminum			