

OKANAGAN-
SIMILKAMEEN

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN INFORMATION RELEASE JANUARY 13, 2014

RDOS partners with Province on Hwy. 97 signage initiative

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, partnering with the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, is undertaking an initiative to remove unauthorized signage along Hwy. 97.

The initiative began January 13 with the mailing of a first series of preliminary letters to owners of property adjacent to Hwy. 97 identified as hosting unauthorized signs.

"The proliferation of unauthorized private signs along Hwy. 97 has created a safety issue," explained Donna Butler, Manager of Development Services.

"The large number of private signs, either located on or adjacent to the highway right-of-way, tends to distract drivers and lead to driver inattention."

The number of private signs also contributes to driver information overload, reducing a driver's ability to concentrate on the important regulatory and warning signs installed along the corridor to safely guide motorists.

The first stage of the initiative will focus on the Hwy. 97 corridor south of Oliver between Road 1 and Road 21. The remainder of the Hwy. 97 corridor will be addressed in subsequent stages.

The letter asks property owners to voluntarily remove the unauthorized signage. If signs are not removed within a set period of time — to be established in a follow-up letter — the provincial government will remove signs from the highway right-of-way. The Regional District will take necessary legal action to ensure compliance among owners of private property who do not comply with the applicable zoning bylaw.

Butler hopes property owners will see the value in voluntarily removing signage.

"The signs are considered by many to be unsightly," she said. "I believe customer goodwill is an incentive for a business owner to find more acceptable means to advertise goods and services."

The Regional District sign bylaw requires signage advertising a business use be located on the property where the business is situated and allows up to two signs to advertise a commercial use.

The bylaw also allows residential and farm property owners to erect one sign on a property to:

- Indicate a home occupation, industry or bed and breakfast operation;

- Identify the property owner;
- Advertise the sale of produce, livestock or product grown or produced on the farm; or
- Advertise the sale or rental of the property or a building located on the property.

Additional regulations provide for signage size, material and illumination. More information concerning signage regulation is available at www.rdos.bc.ca.

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For further information, please contact Andrew Stuckey, Communications, at (250) 490-4144 or astuckey@rdos.bc.ca.

Mark Pendergraft
Board Chair

<i>Distribution:</i>		<i>For Internal Use Only:</i>	
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CivicInfo		File: Document2	

Billey, Janet R TRAN:EX

From: Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX
Subject: Information Note

Craig – Murray has asked that I contact you to seek your assistance in preparing an Information Note for the Minister regarding the Joint Initiative we are engaged in with the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen to remove unauthorized signs from along Highway 97 in the Oliver - Osoyoos area.

I have attached two letters, the first of which was sent last Tuesday January 14 to approximately 85 sign owners.



Private Sign
Removal Letter ...

The second letter, below, is scheduled to be sent the first week of February.



Private Sign
Removal Letter (...)

Also, attached below is a copy of the Proposed Schedule, as you'll note, we were one week late getting first letter out, but hope to stay on track for remainder of schedule.



Proposed
Schedule - Sign ...

I'm also including a copy of the correspondence that was sent out to stakeholder groups and a list of the stakeholders.



Groups Sign
Removal letter.d...



Sign Stakeholder
List.docx

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information to prepare the Information Note.

Thanks Jeff

**MoTI and Regional District Okanagan Similkameen
Joint Initiative - Unauthorized Sign Removal Highway 97
December 23, 2013**

Proposed Schedule:

Phase 1 Highway 97 (between Road 1 and Road 21):

- Week of January 6, 2014 - Letter 1 – send out to property owners and sign owners
- Week of January 6 - Letters to be sent to local associations
- Week of February 3 - Letter 2 – send out send out to property owners and sign owners
- Week of February 24 - MoTI staff to field check for compliance with voluntary sign removal
- Week of March 3 - Phone call to each sign owner on highway right of way by MOTI reminding owner of need to remove sign(only those who have not voluntarily removed their signs by deadline date)
- March 31 — All unauthorized signs will be removed from Highway by MoTI maintenance contractor by this date
- RDOS to continue with private sign enforcement

Phase 2 Highway 97 (Road 21 to US Border):

- Field Inventory completed / ownership info and location table to be created –January 17, 2014
- Week of February 10 - Letter 1 – send out to property owners and sign owners
- Week of March 10 - Letter 2 – send out send out to property owners and sign owners
- Week of March 24 - MoTI staff to field check for compliance with voluntary sign removal
- Week of April 1 - Phone call to each sign owner on highway right of way by MOTI reminding owner of need to remove sign(only those who have not voluntarily removed their signs by deadline date)
- April 30 — All unauthorized signs will be removed from Highway by MoTI maintenance contractor by this date
- RDOS to continue with private sign enforcement

Phase 3 Highway 97 (north of Oliver to RDOS northern border south of Peachland):

- Commence project in fall of 2014, with detailed schedule to be determined

Private Sign Owner
101 Smith Street
Oliver BC, V0H 1T0



January 14, 2014
Rdos File: 4020.20

Re: Private Sign(s) located within or adjacent to Highway 97 Right of Way

This letter is to inform you of a joint initiative by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to improve the safety and aesthetics along Highway 97.

The proliferation of unauthorized private signs along Highway 97 in the south Okanagan has created a safety concern related to driver distraction due to information overload reducing a driver's ability to concentrate on the driving task. While Regional District bylaws provide for appropriate business signage on private property the province regulates private business signage within the highway right of way.

You have received a copy of this letter because you have either been identified as a possible unauthorized private sign owner or you are believed to own property along Highway 97 that may have unauthorized private signs located on it in contravention of RDOS bylaws and provincial regulations. (See attached photo(s)).

The first stage of this initiative will focus on the Highway 97 corridor south of Oliver between Road 1 and Road 21. The remainder of the Highway 97 south Okanagan corridor will be addressed in subsequent stages.

Owners of unauthorized private signs on highway right of way are encouraged to remove their signs from the right of way within a set time frame. Any unauthorized signs found on the highway right of way after the set time, will be removed by the province and stored for a short period of time until the owners claim them. Unclaimed signs may be destroyed. Private property owners with unauthorized signs will be given the opportunity to come into compliance with RDOS sign regulations. The RDOS will take necessary enforcement action to address noncompliance.

We will write to again with further information about this initiative.

In the meantime if you feel you have received this letter in error, have questions regarding this initiative or require additional information concerning the RDOS bylaw or provincial regulations please contact:

Warren Belcher, District Operations Technician Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure at 250-490-8292 in Penticton or email at warren.belcher@gov.bc.ca. Contact can also be made by mail at:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
102 Industrial Pl.
Penticton BC V2A 7C8
Attention: RDOS/MoTI Sign Initiative

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Wiseman".

Jeff Wiseman
Operations Manager
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okanagan Shuswap District

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna Butler".

Donna Butler
Development Services Manager
Regional District Okanagan Similkameen

Private Sign Owner
101 Smith Street
Oliver BC
VOH 1H0

February 3, 2014

Re: Private Sign(s) located within or adjacent to Highway 97 Right of Way

Dear Sign Owner:

This letter is a follow up to the letter sent to you earlier in January to inform you of the joint initiative by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to improve the aesthetics and visibility along the Highway 97 right of way.

Again, you have received a copy of this letter because you have either been identified as a possible private sign owner within highway right of way or you own property along the highway corridor that may have private signs located on your property.

The first stage of this initiative includes the Highway 97 corridor south of Oliver between Road 1 and Road 21. The remainder of the Highway 97 corridor will be addressed in a similar fashion shortly afterward.

Please be advised that you have until February 28, 2014 to voluntarily remove your sign(s) from the highway right of way. Private property owners with signs also have until February 28, 2014 to come into compliance with Regional District sign regulations.

For those private sign owners that do not voluntarily remove their signs from the highway right of way by February 28, the province will remove these signs, store them till May 1, 2014 for the owners to claim, and if not claimed they will then be destroyed. Likewise for property owners who do not comply with the applicable bylaws for signs on private property, the Regional District will take necessary enforcement action to ensure compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative or require additional information please feel free to call Warren Belcher, District Operations Technician at 250-490-8292 or email at warren.belcher@gov.bc.ca

Regards
Jeff Wiseman
Operations Manager
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okanagan Shuswap District

Regards
Donna Butler
Development Services Manager
Regional District Okanagan Similkameen

Local Association

Re: Highway 97 Signage Initiative

Dear Association:

This letter is to inform your Association of a joint initiative by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to improve the aesthetics and visibility along the Highway 97 corridor.

The proliferation of unauthorized private signs along the highway over the last several years is considered a safety hazard as they tend to distract drivers and contribute to information overload, reducing a driver's ability to concentrate on the important regulatory, wayfinding and warning signs installed along the corridor to safely guide motorists. While the Ministry does not allow private business signage within the right of way, Regional District bylaws do provide for appropriate business signage on private property. However, numerous signs on private property exceed the number permitted and/or are not located on the property of the business.

MOTI and the RDOS are jointly sending letters to owners that have been identified as being a possible private sign owner or owning property along the highway corridor that may have private signs. The first stage of this initiative includes the Highway 97 corridor south of Oliver between Road 1 and Road 21. The remainder of the Highway 97 corridor will be addressed in a similar fashion shortly afterward.

The first step in this process will be to provide each private sign owner an opportunity to remove their signs from the highway right of way within a set time frame. Likewise, private property owners with signs will be given the opportunity to come into compliance with Regional District sign regulations.

For those private sign owners that do not voluntarily remove their signs from the highway right of way within the set time, the province will remove these signs, store them for a short period of time for the owners to claim, and if not claimed they will then be destroyed. Likewise for property owners who do not comply with the applicable bylaws for signs on private property, the Regional District will take necessary enforcement action to ensure compliance.

If your group has any questions regarding this initiative or require additional information please feel free to call Jeff Wiseman, Operations Manager at 250 490-2227 or Donna Butler, Development Services Manager at 250 490-4109.

Regards
Jeff Wiseman
Operations Manager
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okanagan Shuswap District

Regards
Donna Butler
Development Services Manager
Regional District Okanagan Similkameen

South Okanagan Associations to Contact

For signage Enforcement

BC Fruit Growers' Association Glen Lucas 1473 Water Street Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J6	Oliver Osoyoos Wine Country Tim Martiniuk Stone Boat Vineyards 356 Orchard Grove Lane Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
Oliver Visitor Centre PO Box 460 6431 Station Street Oliver, BC V0H 1T0	Destination Osoyoos Box 500 Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V0
South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce PO Box 460 Oliver, BC V0H 1T0	South Okanagan Real Estate Board 365 Van Horne Street Penticton, BC V2A 8S4

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Date: draft Minister Responsible: Todd Stone	Highway 97 Unauthorized Sign Removal
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ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

We are working with the RDOS to address safety and aesthetic concerns created by highway sign clutter in the south Okanagan. Joint letters are being sent to private property owners along the Highway 97 asking them to remove unauthorized signs on the highway right-of-way.

While Regional District bylaws provide for business signage on private property, the province regulates private business signage within the highway right of way.

Business owners will have until Feb. 28 to voluntarily remove unauthorized signs from the highway right of way. Private property owners with signs on their land will also have until Feb. 28 to come into compliance with Regional District sign regulations.

The first stage of this initiative will focus on Highway 97 south of Oliver between Road 1 and Road 21. The remainder of the Highway 97 South Okanagan corridor will be addressed in subsequent stages.

Unauthorized signs still on the highway right of way after Feb. 28 will be removed by the

province and stored for a short period until the owners claim them. Unclaimed signs may be destroyed. The RDOS will take necessary enforcement action to address noncompliance with their sign regulations.

Communications contact: Craig Chambers – TRAN GCPE – 250-387-5798

Program contact: Jeff Wiseman – Operations Manager Ok-Shuswap

Minister's Office	Program Area	ADM	Comm. Dir

7.19 Bed and Breakfast Operation ^{xviii}

A bed and breakfast operation is permitted where listed as a permitted use, provided that:

1. it is located within one principal dwelling unit on the parcel;
2. no more than eight (8) patrons shall be accommodated within the dwelling unit;
3. no more than four (4) bedrooms shall be used for the bed and breakfast operation;
4. no cooking facilities shall be provided for within the bedrooms intended for the bed and breakfast operation;
5. no patron shall stay at the bed and breakfast operation for more than thirty (30) consecutive days with 30 days in between any subsequent stay;
6. no retail sales other than the sale of goods produced on the parcel are permitted;
7. no commercial vehicle, exceeding 1 tonne in weight, associated with or used in the conduct of the bed and breakfast operation shall be parked or otherwise located outside an unenclosed building;
8. only persons residing in the principal dwelling unit may carry on the bed and breakfast operation on the parcel occupied by the principal dwelling unit, and must be present on the property during a patron's stay; and
9. the bed and breakfast operation shall not generate traffic congestion or parking demands within the District and shall not produce a public offence or nuisance of any kind.

7.20 Signs

- 1 These regulations apply to every sign on a parcel. Signs are permitted only for the following purposes:
 - a) to denote a home occupation, home industry, or bed and breakfast operation use on the property on which the sign is located; ^{xix}
 - b) to denote the name of the owner or the name or address of the parcel;
 - c) to advertise the sale or rental of the parcel or of a building located on the parcel on which the sign is located;
 - d) to advertise the sale of agricultural produce, livestock or product grown, raised or produced on the farm;
 - e) to denote a public utility use or company on the property on which the sign is located;

^{xviii} Amendment Bylaw No. 2594, 2012 – adopted March 21, 2013

^{xix} Amendment Bylaw No. 2483, 2010 – adopted April 7, 2011

- f) to denote a church use or community hall use or building on the property on which the sign is located;
 - g) to advertise or denote a commercial or administrative and institutional use on the property on which the sign is located.
 - h) to promote or advertise a political party or candidate from the date of the election call to five days after election day;
- .2 Signs permitted under Section 7.20.1 a) and b) are limited to one per parcel and must not exceed a total sign area of 0.6 m².
 - .3 Signs permitted under Section 7.20.1 c) and d) are limited to one per parcel and must not exceed a total sign area of 3.0 m² nor a height of 3.0 metres.
 - .4 Signs permitted under Section 7.20.1 f) are limited to either one free-standing sign or one (1) fascia sign. No sign must exceed a total sign area of 7.5 m² nor a height of 4.0 metres.
 - .5 Signs permitted under Section 7.20.1 e) and g) are limited to one fascia sign and one free-standing sign. No sign must exceed a total sign area of 23 m² or a height of 6.5 metres.
 - .6 Subject to Section 7.20.1, no part of any sign must be located within 1.0 metre of any parcel line.
 - .7 All illuminated signs must be illuminated from a source internal to the sign. Illuminated signs are permitted only within the Commercial, Tourist Commercial and Industrial zones.

7.21 Setbacks for Strata Subdivisions

The setback provisions of this Bylaw apply only to the parcel lines on the perimeter of the parcel, and not to internal parcel lines for strata lots under a registered plan pursuant to Provincial regulations.

Except for setbacks that may be more stringent for strata subdivisions provided elsewhere in this Bylaw, and despite the above, detached or semi-detached residential buildings, manufactured homes, accessory buildings and structures located within a bare land strata subdivision must be located no closer than:

- .1 4.5 metres from an internal roadway, service building, service area and amenity area;
- .2 1.5 metres from an interior side strata lot line, except for the property line on a common wall;
- .3 4.5 metres from a front strata lot line;
- .4 1.5 metres from a rear strata lot line.

7.22 Setbacks for Buildings, Structures and Areas for Farm uses^{xx}

Despite the setback requirements outlined within each Rural Zone specified in Section 10.0 of this Bylaw, buildings, structures and areas for farm uses identified

^{xx} Amendment Bylaw No. 2453.10,2010 – adopted September 15, 2011

Billey, Janet R TRAN:EX

From: Donna Butler <dbutler@rdos.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Wiseman, Jeff TRAN:EX
Subject: PP public meeting Mar 11 14.ppt
Attachments: PP public meeting Mar 11 14.ppt

Jeff, here is our power point presentation. We are also using most of this for our display boards. Note we have found more Highway approved signage and will have more pictures. See you tomorrow in Oliver.

RDOS/MOTI Sign Initiative

Highway 97 Corridor



Signage Project

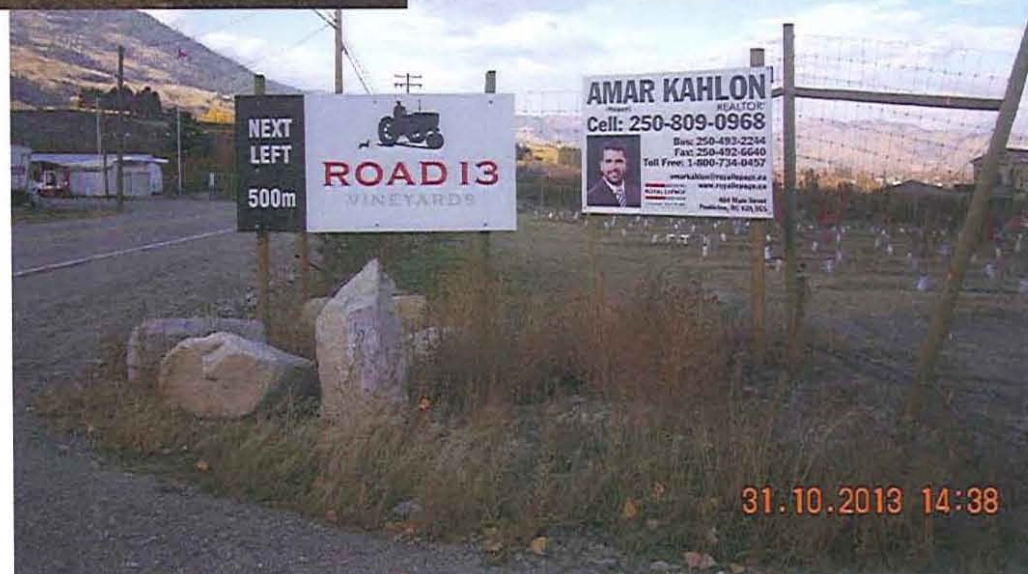
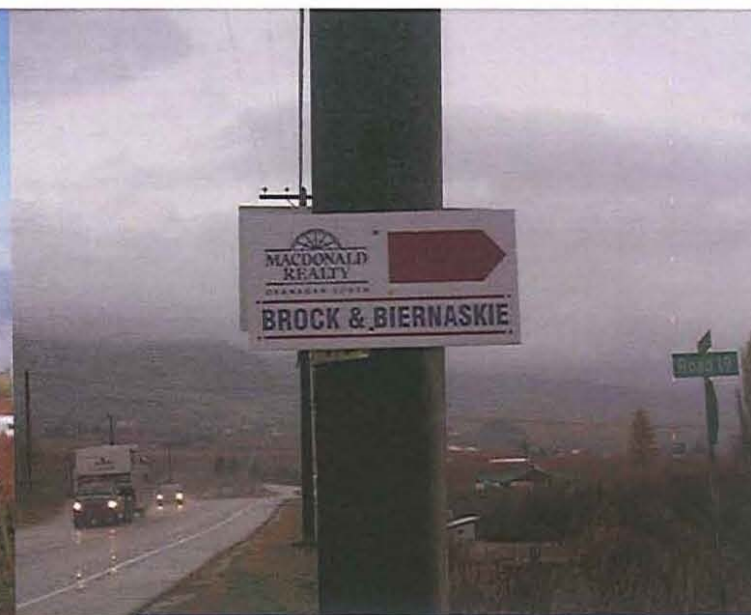
- Initiated by RDOS in late 2012 due to public complaints / Directors concerns
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure partnership
- Concerns of visual clutter and road safety
- Enforcement strategy established in 2013
- Phase 1 in early 2014

HIGHWAY R/W SIGNAGE

Traffic and Safety Signage plus

- Business Attraction Signs (wineries, tourist businesses)
- Service clubs, churches
- Minor real estate

No private signage without a permit (permits rarely granted)



RDOS Signage Provisions

Permitted signs within zoning bylaws:

All signs to be located on the property of the use being advertised, 1.0m setback – no third party/off-premise signs

- Home occupation, home industry, B & B, owners name/address
 - One sign, max 0.6 m²
- Sale or rental of property, the sale of agricultural produce, livestock or product grown, raised or produced
 - One per parcel, max 3.0m² (32 sq. ft.) / 3.0m (10 ft.)

RDOS Signage Provisions

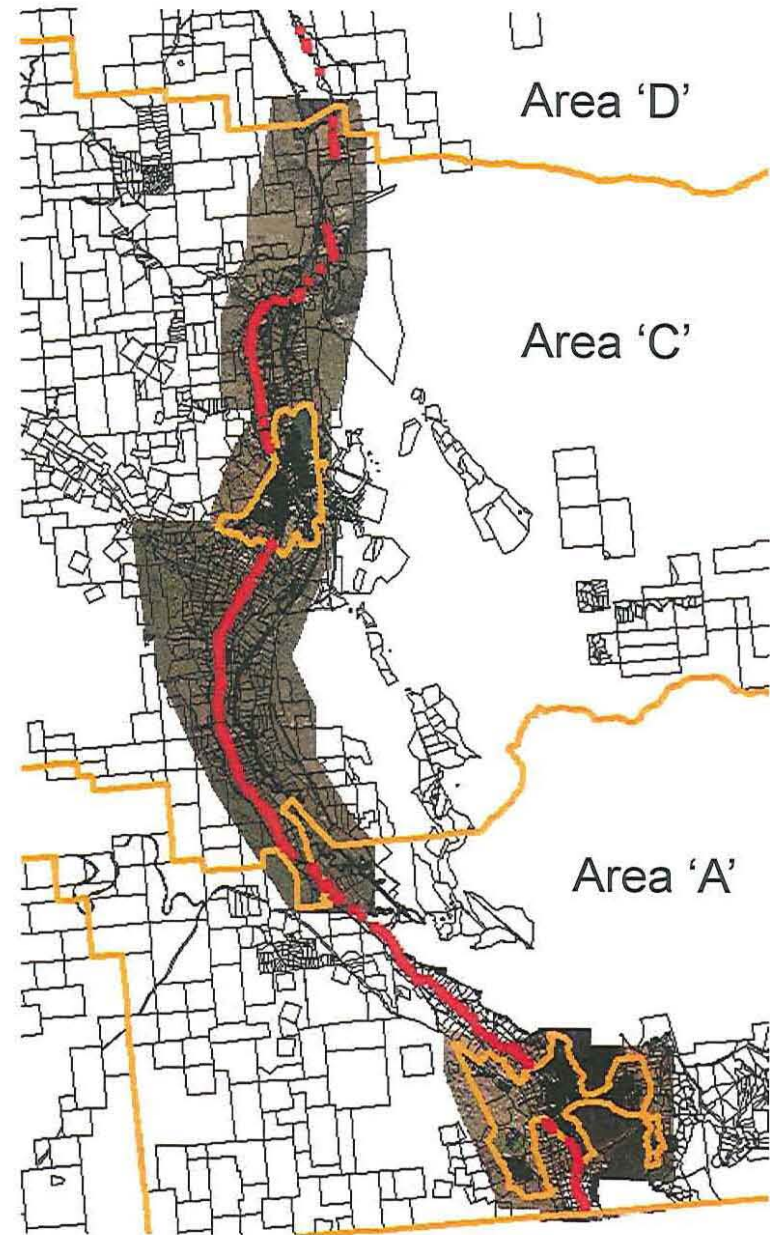
- Public utility use, commercial, administrative or institutional use on the property
 - Limited to one fascia sign and one free standing sign
 - Max area 23m² (247 sq. ft.)/ 6.5m (21 ft.)
- Church or community hall use
 - Limited to one fascia sign or one free standing sign
 - Max area 7.5m²
(81 sq. ft.)/ 4m (13 ft.)
- Sign Permits not required – Bldg. Permits for signs 4m² or larger



To Date:

- Inventory of signage from Road 1 to USA Border by RDOS & Ministry staff
- Total signs within the Inventoried area:
On highway r/w – 243
On private prop – 55

Goal – Entire Hwy 97 corridor



Phase 1- Rd 1 to Rd 21 Phase 2 – Rd 21 to USA

Phase 1

Total Signs: 140

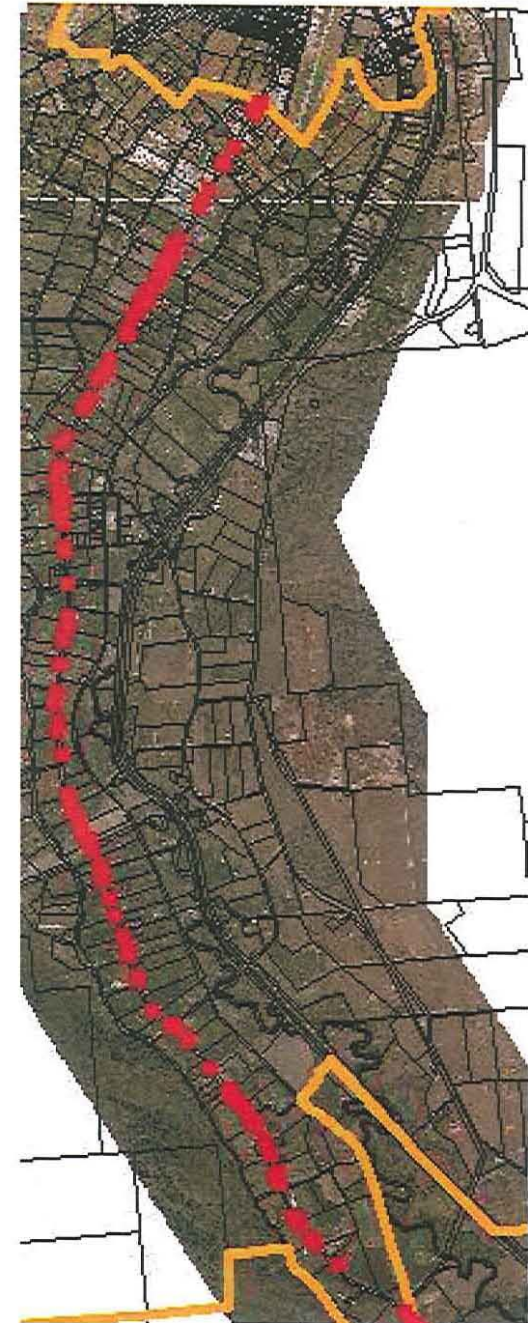
- Within Hwy R/W – 112
- On private property - 26

Phase 2

Total Signs :

- Within Hwy R/W – 131
- On private property - 29

Letters sent to Phase 1 in
Jan/14, and Phase 2 in Mar/14



ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

- Signs on Highway R/W – Sign and property owners notified to remove signs - ***MOTI to ultimately remove sign*** – store for pick-up
- Signs on Private Property - subject to RDOS sign regulations. Assess if:
 - goods being advertised are affiliated with the property
 - sign is consistent with Bylaw***RDOS to go thru enforcement process***

Strategy: Consultation

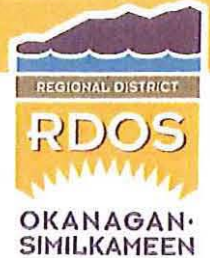
- Through Letters to Property Owners/Sign owners - communication with owners (2 letters)
- Through Letters to Stakeholders:
 - BC Fruit Growers
 - Oliver Osoyoos Wine Country
 - Destination Osoyoos
 - Oliver Visitor Centre
 - South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce
 - South Okanagan Real Estate Board
- Open House March – Purpose for RDOS/MOTI to outline process, signage provisions and invite comments / concerns / support
- Next Steps – review comments from public and business and recommend Sign bylaw amendments to Regional Board

101 Martin Street, Penticton, British Columbia V2A 5J9

Tel: 250.492.0237 Fax: 250.492.0063

Toll Free: 877.610.3737

Email: info@rdos.bc.ca



February 28, 2014

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INVITES YOU TO A MEETING

Please join us

Place: Oliver Community Centre
6359 Park Drive

Date: Tuesday, March 11th

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Representatives of the

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
and

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

will be in attendance to hear your concerns with respect to our
joint initiative to remove signage from the Highway 97 Corridor,
South of Oliver to the USA/Canada border

For additional information please contact
Roza Aylwin, RDOS Bylaw Enforcement Coordinator
250-490-4130

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Date: March 11, 2014

Minister Responsible: Todd Stone

RDOS - Unauthorized Sign Reduction Project

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The RDOS is concerned with the proliferation of unauthorized private business advertising signs (unauthorized signs) on both private lands and provincial highway right of way for aesthetic and local bylaws compliance reasons. The RDOS has bylaws in place to address signs on private lands. The Transportation Act (Pt.2 Div.4 sec.16) provides MoTI the ability to address unauthorized signs on or adjacent to provincial highway right of way. MoTI has been applying a policy of addressing signs on our right of way that pose a safety concern working with owners to relocate or remove signs.

In November 2012 the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) asked the ministry to participate in a joint project to reduce the proliferation of unauthorized signs along Highway 97 between the US border to the District of Peachland a distance of approximately 97 km. The RDOS undertook data collection during the summer of 2013 identifying the location of unauthorized signs along Highway 97.

The project will be carried out in phases. The first phase will focus on a 10 km segment of Highway 97 between the Oliver and Osoyoos where approximately 140 unauthorized signs have been identified.

Recognizing potential concerns from unauthorized sign owners (sign owners) a communication process involving direct contact with sign owners to make them aware of the project and contact information will be implemented. Communications will be joint with both RDOS and MoTI identified as sponsors for the project however MoTI will only address matters related unauthorized signs on right of way. Input from sign owners and key stakeholder groups including local Chambers of Commerce and the BC Wine Institute will also be sought in the initial phase.

A community open house is planned for March 11, 2014 by the RDOS in Oliver where the planned program will be presented for community feedback. MoTI staff will be present to discuss the safety concerns, collaborate on work-a-rounds with local government and businesses to meet the safety improvement targets and provide information about other commercial signing options to meet local needs.

The timing of subsequent phases will be determined following the rollout of initial phase.

Highway 97 was chosen in this area because it has the highest combined number of private signs and traffic volumes as compared to any other Highway corridors in the Okanagan Shuswap Highway District.

Communications:

Program: Murray Tekano, Mike Lorimer; Norm Parkes

Minister's Office	Program Area	ADM	Comm. Dir
	MT; ML; NP	DD	