

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2011 11:38 PM
To: Minter, Sue
CC: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Global War on Terror Highway Sign & Circ

Ah I would say a big no to the exception!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 22, 2011, at 10:46 PM, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Hi Bill & Alex:
> Sign matter: The Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting a "VT Global War on Terror Memorial" sign for the interstate. VTrans staff have denied this request, but it is now being taken up the chain to Obie. I wonder if the Governor wants to make an exception to our billboard law for this purpose, particularly when the term "Global War On Terror" is not currently used by the Obama administration (see below)? I believe Obie is meeting with advocates about this on Monday.
>
> Circ: I hope you are pleased with the press on the Circ. following Friday (especially the Freeps editorial). I believe we have succeeded in changing the conversation. Now we need to deliver. I think this needs careful strategic thinking. When Brian and I develop a plan/ process, we will share with you both. I also want to make sure that Vtrans, ANR and ACCD are all in the loop together, and on the same page as we move forward. We weren't quite there before the presser, so I will be paying close attention to those dynamics from here forward.
>
> Thanks!
> Sue
>
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> _____
> From: Minter, Sue
> Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2011 7:05 AM
> To: Obuchowski, Mike; Spaulding, Jeb
> Cc: Searles, Brian
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Highway Sign
>
> Folks:
> As described in careful detail below, there are 2 issues relating to locating this sign – whether this destination is allowed on a "supplemental guide sign", and whether this is room (a viable location) for such sign. The email also responds to your inquiry, Obie, about the Vietnam Vet Mem. Sign. And presents the current signage for the Vet. Mem. Cemetery that is already signed.
>
> I would like to present a third issue here: the name given to this particular war memorial. The Global War on Terror is not an officially recognized name for a war. According to the Washington Post (March 2009) the Obama administration has dropped the name "Global War on

Terror” from use. Please see:

> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/24/AR2009032402818.html>

> As the Wall Street Journal notes, “ the phrase [War on Terror] has been criticized as having inflammatory connotations in the Muslim world.”

> <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123845123690371231.html>

>

> As Secretary of State Clinton notes: “The Administration has stopped using the phrase [“War on Terror”] and I think that speaks for itself.”

>

> Thank you for considering this important aspect as well.

> Sincerely,

> Sue

>

>

From: Gamble, Amy

> Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 11:15 AM

> To: Minter, Sue

> Cc: May, Toni; Marshia, Kevin; Tetreault, Richard

> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Highway Sign

>

> Sue –

>

> I don’t appreciate the threatening tone of the e-mail chain, and I hope that you know that Toni responded in good faith to the question she was asked, in a non-confrontational manner.

>

> There are two questions at hand. One is whether the proposed destination is allowed to be on a supplemental guide sign, and the other is whether there is room for an additional destination on the supplemental guide sign. The destination “VT Global War on Terror Memorial” may fall under “cultural and recreational attractions owned by the state and federal government”, as allowed in 10 VSA 494(6)(B). There is a Travel Information Council application process that would need to be followed in order to get a new destination approved. I do not know how they would respond to a request for a second sign to the same location (the memorial is apparently located at the Veteran’s Cemetery, which is on the existing SGS.)

>

> The harder question is whether there is space for the destination to be signed. The TIC application process is contingent on AOT’s determination that there is an available location.

>

> This is not a cut and dried case. The MUTCD states in section 2E.35, “No more than one Supplemental Guide Sign should be used on each interchange approach. A Supplemental Guide Sign should not list more than two destinations”. The operative word is “should”, defined in Section 1A.13 as “a statement of recommended but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgement or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate.”

>

> Our long held practice is to allow only one supplemental guide sign with up to two destinations per interchange approach. There are existing exceptions – for example, there are two SGS on each approach to I-89 Exit 14, one for the airport and one listing three colleges. I was under the

impression that former Secretary Terrill had elevated the single SGS to policy level (see attached e-mail) but when I checked the policy manual it is apparent that this draft policy was not formally adopted since an older version appears as policy number 3009

<http://aotweb/ADMHResources/VTrans%20Policy%20Manual.htm>. The following is a quote from the draft policy I thought had been adopted:

>

> On limited access highways it is the policy of the Agency to have no more than one Supplemental Guide Sign (SGS) sign per direction per interchange. These signs will be designed in conformance with the MUTCD, as modified and supplemented by State law.

> At Exit 4 in each direction there is one supplemental guide sign listing both VT Veterans Cemetery and VT Technical College. This is the basis for Toni's response that there is no space for an additional destination.

>

> If a second SGS were to be approved, another question is one of physical constraints. The standard supplemental guide sign location is between the 1 mile and the ½ mile exit guide signs. The minimum sign spacing between guide signs is 800 ft, so in theory there could be room for two SGS in that ½ mile space (2640 ft space allows 880 ft between signs). Some exits do not have roadsides conducive to sign installation and we are not able to install any SGS at all, but it does appear that the roadside on the Exit 4 approaches is relatively flat and unobstructed. Adding an additional sign would require moving the recently installed supplemental guide signs for proper spacing. The cost of installing two new signs and moving two existing signs is probably in the \$15-25K range.

>

> Please be aware that allowing exceptions is a slippery slope – the exception has a tendency to become the rule. There was a similar situation for the Community College of Vermont last spring in which Secretary Dill decided against allowing a second SGS, much to CCV's initial consternation, although they apparently decided it was not worth pursuing the alternative, which was to get regional consent that CCV should be one of the two destinations on the existing SGS (instead of either Champlain Valley Expo or St. Michaels College).

>

> Here is the Veterans Memorial Sign that Commissioner Obuchowski asked about, on the approach to the Sharon NB Welcome Center. No formal approval process was undertaken for this sign, which AOT installed at BGS's request. It is in conformance with the edition of the MUTCD current at the time the sign was designed (the text size would probably not meet the 2009 MUTCD.)

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> [cid:image001.jpg@01CC18D1.F6BAA3C0]

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> The Exit 4 supplemental guide sign in the photo below has been replaced essentially in-kind with the Royalton-Middlesex interstate sign project. This is the northbound sign; the southbound is similar.

>

> [cid:image002.jpg@01CC18D1.F6BAA3C0]

>

> From: May, Toni
> Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 8:52 AM
> To: Gamble, Amy
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Highway Sign

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>

>

> From: Minter, Sue
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 5:59 PM
> To: May, Toni
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Highway Sign

>

> Toni:
> Can you respond?

>

> Sue Minter
> Deputy Secretary
> Agency of Transportation
> 1 National Life Drive
> Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
> (802) 828-2657
> (802) 828-3522 (fax)

>

> From: Obuchowski, Mike
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 5:55 PM
> To: Minter, Sue
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Highway Sign

>

> Is the Vietnam Veterans' memorial sign at Sharon NB in violation?

>

> From: Minter, Sue
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 5:36 PM
> To: Spaulding, Jeb; Obuchowski, Mike; Searles, Brian
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Highway Sign

>

> At this point adding another sign to our existing interstate signs would violate our sign law, which , particularly at this time, we would not recommend.

> Sue

>

> Sue Minter
> Deputy Secretary
> Agency of Transportation
> 1 National Life Drive
> Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
> (802) 828-2657
> (802) 828-3522 (fax)

>
> From: Spaulding, Jeb
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 10:49 AM
> To: Obuchowski, Mike; Searles, Brian; Minter, Sue
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Highway Sign
>
> Let me know how I can be helpful.
>
> From: Obuchowski, Mike
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 9:16 AM
> To: Spaulding, Jeb; Searles, Brian; Minter, Sue
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Highway Sign
> Importance: High
>
> A heads-up. Global war on terror memorial located at Randolph VT Veterans Cemetery.
>
> From: Cadorette, Wendy
> Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 9:01 AM
> To: Clark, Clayton
> Cc: Obuchowski, Mike; Cadorette, Wendy; Minoli, Wanda; Sandretto, Tom; Lively, Jeff
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Highway Sign
> Importance: High
>
> My thoughts also, thanks Clayton. I have blocked the Commissioner's calendar, 2 – 3:00pm Monday.
>
> Commissioner – please see email thread below, specifically VTRANS comments.
>
> Wendy
>
> Wendy L. Cadorette | Department of Buildings & General Services
> Office of the Commissioner | Executive Assistant
> 2 Governor Aiken Avenue | Montpelier, VT 05633-5801
> ph: 802.828.3519 | fax: 802.828.3533
>
>
> From: Clark, Clayton
> Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 3:16 PM
> To: Cadorette, Wendy
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Sign
>
> Hi Wendy,
> We did not discuss the highway sign when we met. Getting Obie involved is good... VTrans can say no now, but when Marion Gray contacts the Governor and press they may wish they gave their leadership an opportunity to head this off first.
> Can I get on Obie's calendar Monday afternoon to discuss the VCAB?

> Thank you,
> Clayton
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>
> From: Cadorette, Wendy
> Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:58 PM
> To: Clark, Clayton
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Sign
> Importance: High
>
> Clayton – see below.... I am going to share this with Obie, my higher authority, however I'm not certain what you and Rep. Joe discussed with him when you met. Would you like to give me any additional information / explanation to better inform the Commissioner?
>
> Thx!
>
> Wendy
>
> Wendy L. Cadorette | Department of Buildings & General Services
> Office of the Commissioner | Executive Assistant
> 2 Governor Aiken Avenue | Montpelier, VT 05633-5801
> ph: 802.828.3519 | fax: 802.828.3533
>
>
> From: Aja, Joe
> Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:36 PM
> To: Cadorette, Wendy
> Subject: FW: Global War on Terror Sign
>
> Wendy,
> This doesn't look good. This will need help from a higher authority.
>
>
> ----
> E. Joseph Aja, Jr.
> Project Manager
> Buildings & General Services
>
> From: May, Toni
> Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:14 PM
> To: Aja, Joe
> Subject: RE: Global War on Terror Sign
>
> Hi Joe
>

> I spoke with my supervisor as well as one of our traffic investigators. There was a big sign replacement project that took place on the interstate last summer so all of the signs in that area were replaced last year with the project. The MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) is what determines sign placement. Per the MUTCD guidelines, a sign assembly in addition to the existing assembly would not be allowed. At best, we could only add to what is already there but because there are already two destinations listed on the sign, there is no space available. We have already reached the maximum sign size at that location.

>

> Thanks

> Toni

>

> From: Aja, Joe

> Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 11:05 AM

> To: May, Toni

> Subject: Global War on Terror Sign

>

> Toni,

> The Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting the sign read "VT Global War on Terror Memorial" on the standard brown attraction sign. They do not want it on the same sign as the Cemetery. After our discussion, this may not be option due the number of signs already in place etc., however, it is what they are looking for. Let me know what you find out.

>

> Thanks.

>

> ----

> E. Joseph Aja, Jr.

> Project Manager

> Buildings & General Services

> 2 Governor Aiken Ave.

> Montpelier, VT 05633-5801

>

> joe.aja@state.vt.us<mailto:joe.aja@state.vt.us>

> 802-828-5694 Office

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> <image002.jpg>

> <image001.jpg>