



City of Tacoma
Planning and Development Services

Agenda Item
D-2

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Dustin Lawrence, Comprehensive Planning Division
SUBJECT: Annual Amendment #2013-09 Sign Code Revisions
DATE: January 31, 2013

At the February 6, 2013 Planning Commission meeting, staff will recommend that the Commission authorize the sign code amendments for public review and comment. The Commission began review of the amendment back in October of 2012. During the review, the Commission raised various questions and concerns regarding the proposed amendments. These questions and concerns related primarily to sign brightness, hours of operation, height, and minimum sign area.

Following review of the issues brought forward by the Planning Commission, staff conducted additional research, including field visits using sign measuring devices and follow-up discussions with various local sign industry experts. As a result, the draft code has been revised. In addition to the draft code, staff will present to the Commission the staff report for the proposed amendment (see Attachment "A") and a sample of brightness ratings taken of notable existing digital changing message center signs located within the City (see Attachment "B").

Staff will seek authorization from the Commission to move forward with the public hearing notice for the proposed amendment. If you have any questions, please contact me at (253) 591-5845 or dlawrence@cityoftacoma.org.

Attachments (2)

c: Peter Huffman, Interim Director



2013 Annual Amendment Application No. 2013-09
Sign Regulations

STAFF REPORT

Application #:	2013-09
Applicant:	Planning & Development Services
Contact:	Dustin Lawrence, Comprehensive Planning Division
Type of Amendment:	Regulatory Code Text Changes
Current Land Use Intensity:	Not Applicable
Current Area Zoning:	Not Applicable
Size of Area:	Not Applicable
Location:	City-wide
Neighborhood Council area:	City-wide
Proposed Amendment:	Amend <i>TMC</i> Chapter 13.06 Zoning to add new standards for digital signs

General Description of the Proposed Amendment:

The proposed amendments to the *Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC)* Chapter 13.06 Zoning would (1) better define digital signs (electronic changing message center); and (2) place standards on digital signs, including those pertaining to hours of operation, height, size limitation, and brightness. The proposed amendment is limited to onsite digital signs and, thus, does not pertain to billboard signs.

A general summary of the proposed amendments are listed below (see details in Exhibit “A”):

1. New Subsection for Electronic Changing Message Center Signs. Under the current sign code, changing message center signs are defined in the definition section of TMC 13.06. Because of the varying styles and options available for such signs, staff has included a new subsection that expands on the definition and includes additional regulations. This is consistent with how different types of signs are arranged in the code, including freestanding, wall mounted, temporary, billboards, and projecting signs.
2. New Standards/Regulations for Electronic Changing Message Center Signs. Under the current sign code, electronic changing message center signs follow the same size limitation as other signs and are only prohibited from having animated features. The current sign code would put a limit on the size, location from residential areas, height, brightness, and the frequency of how long each message would be displayed.
3. Exemption for Pedestrian Friendly Signs in all Mixed-Use Districts. Current sign regulations require that pedestrian friendly signs, such as small signs that hang over sidewalks perpendicular to a

buildings frontage, must use the site's sign area allocation. In recognition that these types of signs add character and vibrancy to district, staff is proposing an outright exemption of these types of signs if they are located in an "X" district or within one of the downtown zoning districts.

Public Outreach:

Over the past few months, staff has discussed the 2013 Annual Amendment package with various stakeholder groups, including the Sustainability Commission, Master Builders Association (MBA), and other development industry representatives. In addition, planning staff have reached out to the Community Council, Neighborhood Councils, the Cross District Association, and Neighborhood Business Districts, informing them of the 2013 Annual Amendment process and offering presentations of the summary of all proposed amendments at their board meetings. In response to requests, staff provided overview presentations to the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council, West End Neighborhood Council, South End Neighborhood Council, and South Tacoma Business District. Additional outreach will occur through and during the Planning Commission and City Council's public hearing and notice processes. In addition, staff has worked with various local sign industry professionals and has made key interest groups such as Tacoma Public Schools and Metro Parks aware of the amendment.

Applicable Provisions of the Growth Management Act (and other state laws):

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that development regulations shall be consistent with and implement the Comprehensive Plan. Development regulations include, but are not limited to, zoning controls, critical area ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances. The proposed amendments are designed to improve consistency and compatibility within the development regulations and between the Comprehensive Plan, zoning classifications and development regulations.

Applicable Provisions of the Comprehensive Plan:

LU-UAD-1 Development Standards - Craft development standards that are easy to use and administer and encourage quality site and building design consistent with the goals and policies herein. Refine development standards as needed to accomplish design goals per changing demographics, development conditions, and community interests.

LU-UAD-5 Design Quality - Promote design quality by creating clear and detailed standards that are crafted to encourage desired types of development. Standards should include guidance for: Compatible site design; Attractive pedestrian pathways and spaces; Safe and connected vehicular access; Compatible and attractive building massing and design; Integration of building details; Use of durable, high quality materials; Landscape design; Signage design; and Safety and security.

Amendment Criteria:

Applications for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code are subject to review based on the adoption and amendment procedures and the review criteria contained in TMC 13.02.045.G. Proposed amendments are required to be consistent with or achieve consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and meet at least one of the ten review criteria to be considered by the Planning Commission. The following section provides a review of each of these criteria with respect to the proposal. Each of the criteria is provided, followed by staff analysis of the criterion as it relates to this proposal.

1. There exists an obvious technical error in the pertinent Comprehensive Plan or regulatory code provisions.

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 2. Circumstances related to the proposed amendment have significantly changed, or a lack of change in circumstances has occurred since the area or issue was last considered by the Planning Commission.**

Staff Analysis: The proposed amendments are in direct response to changes in signage technology. Digital changing message center signs have become more affordable, brighter, and provide a more intense display. The proposed amendments will ensure such signs meet the overall vision of the Comprehensive Plan and minimize impacts to the public.

- 3. The needs of the City have changed, which support an amendment.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 4. The amendment is compatible with existing or planned land uses and the surrounding development pattern.**

Staff Analysis: The proposed amendment would allow the sign code to be better compatible with the zoning code in that impacts to neighboring properties would be minimized while still allowing businesses the opportunity to have on site digital signage.

- 5. Growth and development, as envisioned in the Plan, is occurring faster, slower, or is failing to materialize.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 6. The capacity to provide adequate services is diminished or increased.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 7. Plan objectives are not being met as specified, and/or the assumptions upon which the plan is based are found to be invalid.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 8. Transportation and and/or other capital improvements are not being made as expected.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 9. For proposed amendments to land use intensity or zoning classification, substantial similarities of conditions and characteristics can be demonstrated on abutting properties that warrant a change in land use intensity or zoning classification.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

- 10. A question of consistency exists between the Comprehensive Plan and its elements and RCW 36.70A, the County-wide Planning Policies for Pierce County, Multi-County Planning Policies, or development regulations.**

Staff Analysis: Not Applicable.

Economic Impact Assessment:

The proposed amendment would increase the limitations on the size, height, and brightness of digital changing message center signs. It is assumed that some minor economic impacts may result since digital changing message center signs costs can be tied to their size. However, staff has not received any initial comments noting that increased limitations on such signs will result in any significant economic impacts.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends forwarding the proposed amendments to *TMC* Chapter 13.06 for public review and comment.

Exhibit:

A. Proposed Amendments to *TMC* Chapter 13.06 (January 30, 2013 Draft)



2013 Annual Amendment Application No. 2013-09
Sign Code Revisions

DRAFT LAND USE REGULATORY CODE CHANGES
February 6, 2013

These proposed amendments include modifications to the following Sections of TMC Title 13, the Land Use Regulatory Code

*Note – These amendments show all of the changes to the *existing* land use regulations. The sections included are only those portions of the code that are associated with these amendments. New text is underlined and text that is deleted is shown in ~~strikethrough~~. New text added since the last Commission meeting is underlined and highlighted.

Chapter 13.06 - Zoning

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13.06.521 General sign regulations.

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B. Exempt signs. The following signs shall be exempt from all requirements of this section and shall not require permits; however, this subsection is not to be construed as relieving the user of such signage from responsibility for its erection and maintenance, pursuant to Title 2 or any other law or ordinance relating to the same.

1. Changing of the advertising copy or message on a sign specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.
2. Repainting, maintenance, and repair of existing signs or sign structures; provided, work is done on-site and no structural change is made.
3. Signs not visible from the public right-of-way and beyond the boundaries of the lot or parcel.
4. Incidental and warning signs.
5. Sculptures, fountains, mosaics, murals, and other works of art that do not incorporate business identification or commercial messages.
6. Signs installed and maintained on bus benches and/or shelters within City right-of-way, pursuant to a franchise authorized by the City Council.
7. Seasonal decorations for display on private property.
8. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection, when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material.
9. Signs of public service companies indicating danger and aid to service or safety.
10. Non-electric bulletin boards not exceeding 12 square feet in area for each public, charitable, or religious institution, when the same are located on the premises of said institutions.
11. Construction signs denoting a building which is under construction, structural alterations, or repair, which announce the character of the building enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended, including names

of architects, engineers, contractors, developers, financiers, and others; provided, the area of such sign shall not exceed 32 square feet.

12. Window sign.

13. Political signs, as set forth in Title 2.

14. Real estate signs, 12 square feet or less, located on the site. Condominiums or apartment complexes shall be permitted one real estate sign with up to 12 square feet per street frontage. Such sign(s) may be used as a directory sign that advertises more than one unit in the complex.

15. Off-premises open house or directional signs, subject to the following regulations:

a. The signs may be placed on private property or on the right-of-way adjacent to said private property, with the permission of the abutting property owner. The signs shall be displayed in such a manner as to not constitute a traffic hazard or impair or impede pedestrians, bicycles, or disabled persons. If either condition is not met, the abutting property owner or the City may remove the sign.

b. Signs shall not be fastened to any utility pole, street light, traffic control device, public structure, fence, tree, shrub, or regulatory municipal sign.

c. A maximum of three off-premises open house or directional signs will be permitted per single-family home. One additional open house or directional sign identifying the open house shall be permitted at the house being sold.

d. Signage shall not exceed four square feet in area per side (eight square feet total) and three feet in height. Off-premises open house or directional signs shall not be decorated with balloons, ribbons, or other decorative devices.

e. Signage shall only be in place between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., when the seller of the product, or the seller's agent, is physically present at the location of the product.

f. Each off-premises open house or directional sign that is placed or posted shall bear the name and address of the person placing or posting the sign in print not smaller than 12 point font. The information identifying the name and address of the person placing or posting the sign is not required to be included within the content of the speakers' message, but may be placed on the underside of the sign or in any other such location.

g. New plats may have up to a maximum of eight plat directional signs for all new homes within the subdivision. New plat directional signs shall identify the plat and may provide directional information but shall not identify individual real estate brokers or agents. New plat directional signs shall be limited in size and manner of display to that allowed for off-premises open house or directional signs. Off-premises open house or directional signs shall not be permitted for new homes within new plats.

h. A maximum of three off-premises open house or directional signs shall be allowed per condominium or apartment complex.

16. Professional name plates two square feet or less.

17. Changing plex-style faces in existing cabinets; provided, work is done on-site without removing sign.

18. Temporary public event signs not exceeding 12 square feet, and temporary event banners, placed on publicly owned land or adjacent public right-of-way. Signs or banners shall be securely attached to the ground or a structure and must be removed after the event.

19. One individual blade sign located above sidewalk and under canopy blade signs located above sidewalk up to eight square feet and one foot thick. Shall be illuminated only by indirect lighting, maximum projection of 3 ½ feet, and shall maintain a minimum clearance of eight feet above the sidewalk.

* * *

D. Special regulations by type of sign. In addition to the general requirements for all signs contained in this section, and the specific requirements for signs in each zone, there are special requirements for the following types of signs:

1. Wall signs.

2. Projecting signs.

3. Freestanding signs.

4. Marquee signs. Electronic changing message center signs.

5. Under-marquee signs.

6. Canopy and awning signs.
7. Temporary signs.
8. Off-premises directional signs.
9. Billboards.

The special requirements for these signs are contained in subsections E through M of this section.

E. Wall Signs. Special regulations governing wall signs are as follows:

1. A wall-mounted sign shall not extend above the wall to which attached or above the roofline.
2. A wall sign shall not extend more than 18 inches from the wall to which it is attached.
3. No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening nor project beyond the corner of the wall to which it is attached.
4. Where a wall sign extends over a public or private walkway, a vertical clearance of eight feet shall be maintained above such walkway.
5. For the purposes of this subsection, any building with an actual or false mansard roof may use such walls or roof for wall sign installation.
6. An architectural blade designed primarily for the placement of signs may be erected on top of a wall, parapet, roof, or building face and shall comply with all applicable height limitations. All supporting structure for such signs shall be completely enclosed.
7. Painted signs, on the building, shall be calculated with the allowed sign area for a business.

F. Projecting signs. Special regulations governing projecting signs are as follows:

1. No projecting sign shall extend nearer than two feet to the face of the nearest curb line, measured horizontally.
2. The maximum projection permitted for any one sign shall be six and one-half feet or two-thirds of the width of the sidewalk below the location of the projecting sign, whichever is less.
3. A projecting sign shall not rise above the roofline or the wall to which it is attached.
4. Minimum clearance. All projecting signs over the public right-of-way shall have a minimum clearance to the ground as follows:
 - a. Over alleys and driveways, 14-1/2 feet; provided, said projection is no more than 12 inches;
 - b. Over automobile parking lots and other similar areas where vehicles are moved or stored, 14-1/2 feet;
 - c. Over footpaths, sidewalks, and other spaces accessible to pedestrians, eight feet;
 - d. All parts of electric reflector lamps or other illuminating devices extending over the sidewalk space shall be at least ten feet above the sidewalk, and the projection horizontally over the sidewalk space may not be more than six and one-half feet, but no closer than two feet from the curb line.
5. No projecting sign shall be erected in such a position as to completely block visibility of another projecting sign already in place on either side.
6. All projecting signs shall be installed in such a manner that the support structure above a roof, building face, or wall shall be minimally visible.
7. Supporting framework for a projecting sign may rise 12 inches above a parapet; however, where there is a space between the edge of the sign and the building face, such framework must be enclosed.

G. Freestanding signs. Special regulations governing freestanding signs are as follows:

1. No freestanding sign shall be located within 15 feet of a residentially-zoned district, and where the side of a commercially zoned property abuts the side of a residentially-zoned property the first 100 feet of the commercial frontage shall have a sign setback requirement of 15 feet.
2. Minimum clearance. All freestanding signs shall have a minimum clearance to the ground as follows:
 - a. Over parking lots and other similar areas where vehicles are moved or stored, 14-1/2 feet;
 - b. Over footpaths, sidewalks, and other spaces accessible to pedestrians, eight feet.

3. Signs shall be located upon the frontage for which the sign area is calculated.
4. No freestanding sign shall project over a public right-of-way, unless an adjacent structure or sign is built out to or over the property line that blocks visibility to a freestanding sign on the adjoining property; then, such freestanding sign may be located so that the sign structure is on private property and the sign cabinet may project over the right-of-way, subject to all the provisions regulating projecting signs which project over rights-of-way.
5. Signs placed on public property and/or right-of-way, abutting the business for which they identify, will require a Street Occupancy Permit. Sign regulations shall be determined by the zoning district of the abutting property.

H. ~~(Reserved)~~ Electronic changing message center signs. Electronic changing message center signs may be either “wall signs” or “freestanding signs”, and in addition to all other applicable sign regulations the following are special regulations governing electronic changing message center signs:

1. Freestanding electronic changing message center signs cannot exceed 15 feet in height. Signs located on public facility sites over 5 acres and super regional mall sites are exempt from this requirement.
2. The maximum allowed sign area for any electronic changing message center sign shall be limited to 75% of the area that would be allowed outright in the zoning district it is located in, or 30 square feet, whichever is less. Signs located on public facility sites over 5 acres and super regional mall sites are exempt from this requirement.
4. Electronic changing message center signs shall never flash, flicker, scroll, animate, depict movement or provide video. The frequency of picture/message change for an electronic changing message center sign shall not be less than a 5-1-5 (message-blank-message) second minimum.
5. The brightness of an electronic changing message center sign shall not exceed .3 foot candles over ambient light levels at any given time and shall be equipped with an automatic dimmer and/or light adjustments to ensure compliance with this requirement.
6. Electronic changing message center signs shall not operate beyond the hours of operation of the facility for which it serves and shall be equipped with an automatic timer that turns the sign off and on to ensure compliance with this requirement.
7. Electronic changing message center signs shall only provide advertising for goods and services that are available on-site. Advertising for other businesses, goods, and services that are off-site shall be prohibited.

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Section 13.06.522.J	DCC, DMU	WR	DR
Signage Allocation			
Total sign area allocation for signs attached to buildings and freestanding signs	Each business, 1-1/2 square feet per 1 foot building or street frontage on which the sign(s) will be located (area is calculated from frontage occupied by the business it identifies).	Same as DCC.	1 square foot per 1 foot of building frontage occupied by the business.
Signs Attached to Buildings			
Maximum number	Each business allowed 2 signs per frontage, but no more than 3 signs total for the business, no maximum number for public facility over 5 acres.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Maximum area per sign	Non-residential, 150 square feet per sign. Public facility over 5 acres, 300 square feet. Residential, 20 square feet.	Non-residential, 200 square feet per sign. Residential, 20 square feet.	Non-residential, 100 square feet per sign. Residential, 20 square feet.
Minimum sign area	First floor, 30 square feet. Second floor, 25 square feet.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Wall	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.E shall apply. Shall not exceed 35 feet above grade level, except for 1 corporate logo sign of 150 square feet allowed per building above 35 feet. Public facility over 5 acres not limited to 35 feet above grade.	Same as DCC.	Same as WR, except no corporate logo allowed.
Awning, canopy, marquee, under marquee	Provisions of Sections 13.06.521.H, I, and J shall apply.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Projecting	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.F shall apply with one per building allowed if no freestanding sign exists on the same frontage, shall not extend above 35 feet. Public facility over 5 acres not limited to 35 feet above grade.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Blade, under-canopy	Provisions of Section 13.521.I shall apply. 1 per business, shall not exceed 8 square feet per side, shall be illuminated only by indirect lighting, maximum projection of 3-1/2 feet, maximum wide thickness of 12 inches, and shall maintain a minimum clearance of 8 feet above the sidewalk. Area increase of 25% when using symbolic shape, rather than rectangle or square.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Rooftop signs	Prohibited.	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Freestanding Signs			
Maximum number	1 per street frontage, per site not use and no more than 2 per site. 1 per street frontage(s) for public facility over 5 acres.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.

Section 13.06.522.J	DCC, DMU	WR	DR
Maximum area per sign	30 square feet. 300 square feet for public facility over 5 acres.	100 square feet.	30 square feet.
When not allowed	When building signage exceeds the sign area limit, not allowed on the same frontage as a projecting sign.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Maximum height	6 feet. 30 feet for public facility over 5 acres.	20 feet.	6 feet.
Directionals	Shall be limited to 4 feet in height.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Setback	None, but signs shall be on private property.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Sign Features			
Lighting	Indirect, internal illumination, neon, and bare bulb allowed.	Same as DCC.	Bare bulb illumination prohibited.
Rotating, mechanized	Allowed.	Same as DCC.	Prohibited.
Flashing, animated	Prohibited.	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Electronic changing message center	Allowed.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Temporary Signs			
A-boards	1 permitted each business, shall not exceed 12 square feet in area nor 4 feet in height and shall not be placed on sidewalks less than 12 feet in width.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Banners	1 banner per business with a 60 square feet maximum displayed no longer than 6 months per year. Banners for cultural purposes shall not exceed 400 square feet and are not limited in number or duration.	1 banner per business with a 60 square feet maximum displayed no longer than 6 months per year.	Not allowed.
Flags	Shall be on private property, no advertising allowed except logos.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Window signs	Exempt, but shall not exceed 25 percent of the window area.	Same as DCC.	Same as DCC.
Searchlights, beacons	1 allowed per site, displayed no longer than 7 days per year. No restrictions during an event for public facility over 5 acres.	Same as DCC.	Prohibited.
Temporary off-premises advertising signs	Section 13.06.521.C shall apply, except public facility sites in DCC shall be allowed temporary advertising signs of 32 square feet, including banners not to exceed 160 square feet, attached to temporary fencing during the time of construction.	Prohibited.	Prohibited.

Section 13.06.522.K	C-2, CIX, CCX, UCX, UCX-TD, M-1, M-2, PMI	C-1
Signage Allocation		
Maximum total sign area	Wall signage, 1 square foot per 1 linear foot of the building frontage with the public entrance. Freestanding signage, 1 square foot per 1 linear foot of street frontage(s).	Same as C-2.
Signs Attached to Buildings		
Maximum number	3 per business, 25 percent allocation allowed on building wall(s) without a public entrance. (Note: 50 percent is allowed provided only 2 signs are installed at the business.) No maximum number for public facility over 5 acres.	Same as C-2.
Maximum area per sign	200 square feet. 400 square feet for public facility over 5 acres.	100 square feet.
Minimum sign area	Each business allowed 30 square feet regardless of frontage.	Same as C-2.
Wall	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.E shall apply.	Same as C-2.
Awning, canopy, marquee, under-marquee	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.H, I, and J shall apply.	Same as C-2.
Projecting	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.F shall apply, maximum projection 6-1/2 feet. Single business, in lieu of freestanding sign. Multi-business, not allowed.	Same as C-2.
Blade, under-canopy	Provisions of Section 13.521.I shall apply. 1 per business, shall not exceed 8 square feet per side, shall be illuminated only by indirect lighting, maximum projection of 3-1/2 feet, maximum wide thickness of 12 inches, and shall maintain a minimum clearance of 8 feet above the sidewalk. Area increase of 25% when using symbolic shape, rather than rectangle or square.	Same as C-2.
Roof signs	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Billboards	Allowed only in C-2, M-1, M-2, and PMI. Provisions of Section 13.06.521.M shall apply.	Prohibited.
Freestanding Signs		
Maximum number	1 per street frontage, each 300 feet considered separate street frontage, corner sites require a minimum 300 feet on both frontages for an additional sign.	Same as C-2.
Maximum area per sign	200 square feet (additional 100 square feet allowed for name of shopping center), sites with freeway frontage shall not exceed 75 percent of the maximum allowed. 400 square feet for public facility over 5 acres.	100 square feet.
When not allowed	No freestanding sign shall be on same frontage as a projecting sign.	Same as C-2.
Maximum height	35 feet maximum; signs located 300 feet or less from residential district shall not exceed height of building it identifies. Sign height for site with freeway frontage is prohibited to exceed height of building it identifies. 45 feet for public facility over 5	6 feet for sites with less than 100 feet of frontage, 15 feet for sites with frontage between 100 feet and 300 feet, no sign shall

Section 13.06.522.K	C-2, CIX, CCX, UCX, UCX-TD, M-1, M-2, PMI	C-1
	acres.	exceed the height of the building it identifies.
Directionals	Shall be limited to 4 feet in height, except 15 feet shall be allowed in PMI.	Same as C-2.
Off-premises directionals	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.L shall apply, except 25 square feet shall be allowed in PMI with a maximum height of 15 feet and a maximum number of four per business.	Same as C-2.
Setback	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.G shall apply, minimum 200 feet separation from other freestanding signs, sites with freeway frontage shall locate signs on the abutting parallel frontage, no signs shall be allowed adjacent to the freeway.	Same as C-2.
Billboards	Allowed only in C-2, M-1, M-2, and PMI. Provisions of Section 13.06.521.M shall apply.	Prohibited.
Sign Features		
Lighting	Indirect, internal illumination, neon and bare bulb allowed.	Bare bulb illumination prohibited.
Rotating, mechanized	Allowed.	Prohibited.
Flashing, animated	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Electronic changing message center	Allowed.	Same as C-2.
Temporary Signs		
A-boards	1 per business, on private property, 12 square feet per side, 4 feet height.	Same as C-2.
Banners	1 per business, 60 square feet maximum, 6 months per year. Banners for cultural purposes shall not exceed 400 square feet and are not limited in number or duration.	Prohibited.
Flags, pennants	Shall be on private property, no advertising allowed, except logos.	Same as C-2.
Window signs	Exempt, but shall not exceed 25 percent of the window area.	Same as C-2.
Searchlights, beacons	One allowed per site, displayed no longer than 7 days per year. No restrictions during an event for public facility over 5 acres.	Prohibited.
Temporary off-premises advertising signs	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.C shall apply, except public facility sites in UCX-TD shall be allowed temporary advertising signs of 32 square feet each, including banners not to exceed 160 square feet, attached to temporary fencing during the time of construction.	Prohibited.



13.06.522.L	T, NCX, URX, Non-Residential Districts with VSD	HM, HMX
Signage Allocation		
Maximum total sign area	1-1/2 square feet per 1 linear feet of building frontage abutting a street frontage, applies to the first 50 feet, with 1/2 square foot per 1 linear foot of building frontage over 50 feet.	HM and HMX sign regulations for use by hospitals only, all other uses in HM and HMX to follow T sign regulations.
Signs Attached to Buildings		
Maximum number	2 per primary frontage (1 may be ground sign), 1 per perpendicular frontage(s), 1 per alley frontage with a public entrance.	One per elevation.
Maximum area per sign	Shall not exceed size allocation on primary frontage, 50 square feet on perpendicular frontage(s), 25 square feet on alley frontage, 10 square feet on upper story or basement uses.	Identification signs at 75 square feet. Directional signs at 25 square feet.
Minimum sign area	30 square feet, except for upper story or basement uses.	
Wall	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.E shall apply.	Same as T.
Awning, canopy	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.J shall apply.	Same as T.
Blade, under-canopy	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.-I shall apply. Indirect illumination only.	Same as T.
Projecting	40 square feet with frontage of at least 25 feet and not allowed on alleys, provisions of Section 13.06.521.F shall apply.	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.G shall apply.
Roof signs	Prohibited.	Same as T.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Same as T.
Freestanding Signs		
Maximum number	1 per site, sign area shared with building sign allocation (not allowed on an alley).	1 per right-of-way frontage or 1 per access, regardless the number of major accesses on one right-of-way frontage.
Maximum area per sign	30 square feet.	Identification or directory signs at 50 square feet. Directional signs at 25 square feet.
When not allowed	When the building signage has utilized the allowed sign area for wall signage or when a projection sign exists on the site.	N/A.
Maximum height	6 feet.	Identification or directory signs at 15 feet.
Directionals	Shall be limited to 4 feet in height.	Shall be limited to 6 feet in height.
Setback	None, but signs shall be on private property.	Same as T.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Same as T.

13.06.522.L	T, NCX, URX, Non-Residential Districts with VSD	HM, HMX
Sign Features		
Lighting	Indirect, or internal illumination allowed. No bare bulb illumination allowed. All external lighting to be directed away from adjacent properties to minimize effects of light and glare upon adjacent uses.	Same as T.
Rotating, mechanized	Prohibited.	Same as T.
Flashing, animated	Prohibited.	Same as T.
Electronic c Changing message center	Allowed. <u>Prohibited.</u>	Same as T. <u>Allowed.</u>
Temporary Signs		
A-boards	1 per business, on private property, 12 square feet per side, 4 feet height.	Prohibited.
Banners, pennants	Prohibited.	Banners allowed at 30 square feet.
Flags	Prohibited, except for the national flag, state flag, flags of other political subdivisions.	Same as T.
Window signs	Exempt, but shall not exceed 25 percent of the window area.	Same as T.
Incidental public service signs	Less than 4 square feet, contains no advertising, intended to provide messages such as "no parking," "exit," "entrance," etc.	Same as T.
Searchlights, beacons	Prohibited.	Same as T.

Section 13.06.522.M	PDB	RCX
Signage Allocation		
Maximum total sign area	Single business (wall signs), ½ square foot per 1 linear foot of building frontage.	1 square foot per 1 linear foot of building frontage abutting a street frontage, applies to the first 50 feet, with 1/2 square foot per 1 linear foot of building frontage over 50 ft.
Signs Attached to Buildings		
Maximum number	Single business, 1 per elevation, 2 total. Multi-business, 1 per business.	2 per primary frontage (1 may be a ground sign), 1 per perpendicular frontage(s), 1 per alley frontage with a public entrance.
Maximum area per sign	Single business, 75 square feet per elevation, total 150 square feet for all signs. Multi-business, 20 square feet.	30 square feet maximum on perpendicular frontage(s), but not to exceed size area allocation, 10 square feet on alley frontage, upper story and basement uses.
Minimum sign area	Single business, 30 square feet each business regardless of frontage.	20 square feet each business regardless of frontage.

Section 13.06.522.M	PDB	RCX
	Multi-business, 20 square feet each business regardless of frontage.	
Wall	Provisions of Section 13.06.521.E shall apply.	Same as PDB.
Awning, canopy, under-canopy	Provisions of Section 13.06.521. I and J shall apply.	Same as PDB.
Roof signs	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Freestanding Signs		
Maximum number	1 per site (single or multi-business) located in landscaped area.	1 per site (not allowed on an alley).
Maximum area per sign	30 square feet.	25 square feet.
Maximum height	6 feet.	4 feet.
Directionals	Shall be limited to 4 feet in height.	Same as PDB.
Setback	Minimum 5 feet from property lines.	None, but signs shall be on private property.
Billboards	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Sign Features		
Lighting	Indirect or internal illumination allowed. No bare bulb or neon illumination allowed. All external lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties to minimize effects of light and glare upon adjacent uses.	Same as PDB.
Rotating, mechanized	Prohibited.	Same as PDB.
Flashing	Prohibited.	Same as PDB.
Electronic Changing message center	Allowed.	Prohibited.
Temporary Signs		
A-boards	Prohibited.	1 per business, on private property, 12 square feet per side, 4 feet in height.
Banners, pennants	Prohibited.	Prohibited.
Window signs	Exempt, but shall not exceed 25 percent of the window area.	Same as PDB.
Flags	Prohibited, except the national flag, state flag, flags of other political subdivisions.	Same as PDB.
Incidental public service signs	Less than 4 square feet, contains no advertising, intended to provide messages such as “no parking,” “exit,” “entrance,” etc.	Same as PDB.
Searchlights, beacons	Prohibited.	Prohibited.

Existing Signs Survey (brightness included)

Business	Location	Timing	Dimension approx.(ft)	Height (ft)	Animation	Candle Rating (brightness)	Photo
Tacoma Dome	2727 East D Street Tacoma, WA 98421	5 sec	6x 20	18	Flashing animated	.65	
Grays Lumber	3800 6th Avenue	8 sec	6x10	20	n/a	.45	
Gold Masters	3710 6th Avenue	3 sec	3x8	15	Scroll, flash, animated	.40	
Walgreens	4315 6th Avenue	5 sec	2x7	6	n/a	<.30	