

### **501.3D Marquees**

A marquee must be supported entirely by the building. Any drainage from the marquee must not fall on, or drain across, the sidewalk.

### **501.4 – 501.6 These sections were left blank intentionally**

### **501.7 Banners and Decorations**

#### ***Permit Code BR***

Banners and Decorations are permitted only on conventional highways—they are not allowed within access-controlled right-of-way.

BR permits authorize the erection of banners, decorations, and temporary signing for events by nonprofit organizations over and within State conventional highway right-of-way.

Permanent overhead signs or arches may not be erected or suspended over any State highway. Temporary political signs placed within State highway right-of-way are prohibited by the Business and Professions Code, Section 5405.3, and must be removed immediately.

Authorized banners and decorations over the roadway must have a clearance of at least 18 feet and be suspended securely from permanent structures or poles. Vertical clearance must be 20 feet on Extralegal Load Network (ELLN) highways. No temporary supports are allowed and use of State facilities is prohibited.

#### **501.7A Non-Decorative Banners**

Permits for Non-Decorative banners are issued to a local agency or a nonprofit organization sponsoring an event approved by the local agency. Banners displaying private advertisements are not allowed. An exception is when the advertisement is part of the event's official title (e.g. Kellogg's Napa Valley Marathon). Banners are not authorized within access-controlled right-of-way nor must they be attached to State facilities.

Districts may issue biennial permits to local agencies for installation of Non-Decorative banners at specific locations for recurring events. The local agency then authorizes each banner installation, notifies the State's representative, and provides traffic control.

The restrictions for Non-Decorative banners are listed in Table 5.7 and apply to both individual banner permits and annual/biennial permits to local agencies.

**Table 5.7**  
**Guidelines for Installation of Banners in**  
**Conventional Highway Right-of-way**

1. The event must be approved by the local government having jurisdiction.
2. Display is allowed only within the community that is staging the event, or immediately adjacent to the event location.
3. The banner must be made of substantial material, such as: cloth, canvas, or plastic.
4. The permit engineer must determine the maximum number of banners allowed.
5. Rope must be without knots.
6. Banners must not contain private advertising whether in text or logo format. However, brief text, and/or logos identifying the applicant's local agency (city or county) are allowed. The telephone number of the nonprofit organizations may be included.
7. The lowest point of the banner must be at least 18 feet above the highway pavement and 20 feet on Extralegal Load Network highways.
8. Suspension or installation of banners is prohibited on State-owned traffic signal poles or other State-owned facilities.
9. Local police may provide traffic control while the banner is being installed or removed.
10. The display may be allowed two weeks before the event and may remain in place for the duration of the event. However, the total period of display should not exceed six weeks.

### **501.7B Decorative Banners**

Decorative banner permits are issued to local agencies for beautification enhancement of their local streets. As a minimum, decorative banners must:

1. Be used exclusively on conventional highways.
2. Not contain advertising whether in text or logo format. However, decorative text or brief text, and/or logos identifying the applicant local agencies, (e.g. cities and counties) are allowed.
3. Remain in place for periods up to two years--the normal biennial permit duration. However, at the end of the two years, the local agency may reapply.
4. Be applied for by the local agency.

By State statute, the flags of the United States of America and the State of California may be placed on sidewalks within State conventional highway right-of-way. Encroachment permits are not required within city corporate boundaries; however, Caltrans should approve the method of installation and maintenance. In unincorporated county areas, no-fee permits are issued for flag installations after any needed traffic and maintenance reviews are completed. Applicants usually

are local agencies and civic organizations, but individuals may make applications for flags displayed within the right-of-way immediately fronting their property.

### **501.7C Holiday Decorations**

Holiday decorations are permitted only on conventional highways—they are **not** allowed within access-controlled right-of-way.

Decorations attached to vertical structures (other than State-owned facilities) such as power, telephone, or light poles are not to project beyond the curb line and must be at least 14 feet above the sidewalk. Decorations attached to vertical structures that project beyond the curb line or cross the highway must have a minimum vertical clearance of 18 feet above the highway pavement and 20 feet on Extralegal Load Network (ELLN) highways. Decorations must not be attached to State-owned facilities.

Decorative red, yellow, or green lights must not be placed where it could interfere with the driver's perception of traffic signals.

### **501.8 Bus Passenger Waiting Shelters and Benches**

#### ***Permit Code BS***

BS permits authorize the construction of bus passenger waiting shelters and benches within the State right-of-way. A biennial BS permit should also be issued for the continued maintenance of the facility and advertising panels. The following sections describe the general requirements for bus shelters and the specific conditions that apply to advertising, clearances, construction details, and telephones associated with bus shelters and benches.

#### **501.8A General Requirements**

Permits may be granted to local agencies or transportation districts to construct bus passenger waiting shelters or benches within the right-of-way at official bus stops on conventional highways. The shelter design must comply with design standards of the local agency, transit agency, or Caltrans, whichever is most stringent. ADA certification is required. See the ADA certification section at the beginning of this Chapter.

Bus shelters or benches must not restrict sight distances.

#### **501.8B Advertising**

Generally, advertising within the right-of-way is prohibited by the California Constitution for to allow it could be a gifting of public funds. Specifically, it is prohibited by State statute (Streets and Highways Code 721 and Business and Professions Code 5403). Even if Caltrans received revenues for sign placement, such signs would soon clutter the highways, become a distraction to motorists, and degrade any scenic value. However, advertising on bus shelters and benches is permissible (Business and Professions Code 5408.5) provided advertising displays are not within 660 feet of and visible from any roadway segment on the National Highway System. Advertising