



SIGNAGE

This article establishes clear, content-neutral rules for signage throughout the City of Frankfort and Franklin County. The goal is to allow appropriate signage for different land uses while improving safety, protecting community character, and supporting economic activity. This is important to:

- Reduce visual clutter and protects property values
- Improve traffic and pedestrian safety
- Align sign size, design, and placement with building scale and land use
- Promote attractive, coordinated signage that reflects community identity

OVERVIEW OF IMPROVEMENTS

- Where signs are allowed and where they are prohibited
- Permit requirements and review processes
- General standards that apply to all signs
- Clear rules for lighting, placement, size, and height
- Maintenance, safety, and removal of signs
- More consistent organization across sign type

SIGN TYPES PERMITTED BY USE TYPE

SIGN TYPE	AGRICULTURAL USES	SINGLE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS	MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS	PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL USES	COMMERCIAL USES	INDUSTRIAL USES	SIGN TYPE REGULATIONS
Awning or Canopy Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.A
Electronic Message Boards	-	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.B
Ground Mounted Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.C
Incidental Signs	PS	-	PS	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.D
Interstate Business Signs	Per Section 7.09.E.1						Z.09.E
Menu Board Signs	-	-	-	-	PS	-	Z.09.F
Monument Entrance Signs	Per Section 7.09.G						Z.09.G
Non-Premises Advertising Signs	-	-	-	-	CS	CS	Z.09.H
Pole Signs	-	-	-	-	PS	PS	Z.09.I
Projecting Signs	-	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.J
Wall Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.K
Window Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.L

PS = Permitted with Standards
CS = Conditional with Standards
Shaded or "-" = Prohibited

DRAFT PROJECTING SIGN STANDARDS

TABLE 7.09-##: Projecting Signs	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per parcel or storefront
Maximum Area	8 square feet
Maximum Projection	18 inches
Required Clearance	Bottom of Sign (Minimum): 8 feet above pedestrian ways Top of Sign (Maximum): 15 feet above pedestrian ways
Illumination	External only
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Same as non-residential districts	
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL DISTRICTS	
* As specified in Article 9: Planned Development & Special Districts	



Projecting Sign

SIGN TYPES ADDRESSED

- Permanent signs (such as wall, ground, monument, projecting, and window signs)
- Temporary signs with clear limits on size, location, and duration
- Electronic message boards with strict safety and brightness standards
- Special sign types including menu boards, interstate business signs, and entrance signs



Wall Sign



Ground Mounted Sign



Window Sign



Menu Board



Electronic Message Board



Incidental Sign

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Additional review for signs in historic and special districts
- Sign Package Plans allow coordinated signage for larger or complex developments
- Landscaping is required around many ground-mounted and freestanding signs

PARKING, LOADING & CIRCULATION

These standards help prevent over-parking, improve site design, support walking and biking, reduce traffic conflicts, and protect air and water quality—while still ensuring adequate access for customers, residents, and deliveries.

APPROPRIATE APPLICABILITY

New development must meet current standards. Expansions, changes in use, or parking lot changes may trigger partial or full compliance, depending on their scope. Minor renovations and small parking changes are generally exempt.

Table 5.02-1: Applicability of Parking, Loading, and Circulation Standards	
Site/Building Improvement	Applicability of Parking, Loading, and Circulation Standards
NEW CONSTRUCTION	
New Construction	Full Compliance
BUILDING EXPANSION / ADDITION	
Less than 25% of floor area	N/A
Less than 25% of floor area, but >2,000 sq. ft.	Full compliance for additional spaces required
25 - 50% of floor area	Full compliance for additional spaces required
>50% of floor area	Full Compliance
EXTERIOR FACADE RENOVATION	
<25% of Façade Area	N/A
25 - 50% of Façade area	N/A
>50% of Façade Area	N/A
CHANGE OF USE / OCCUPANT	
Change in Use Only (No Expansion or Renovation)	Must provide additional spaces per new use
VEHICULAR USE AREA IMPROVEMENTS	
Parking Lot Expansion < 10 Spaces	N/A
Parking Lot Expansion > 10 spaces	Full Compliance for New Spaces
Resurfacing or Restriping ⁽¹⁾	N/A

RETHINKING PARKING

Applicants must analyze actual parking demand based on use, size, hours, employees, customers, shared parking opportunities, and nearby on-street spaces. This helps avoid excessive parking that wastes land and increases runoff.

When required, a parking plan shows how vehicles, pedestrians, bikes, landscaping, lighting, drainage, and access all work together—ensuring safe, functional, and well-designed sites.

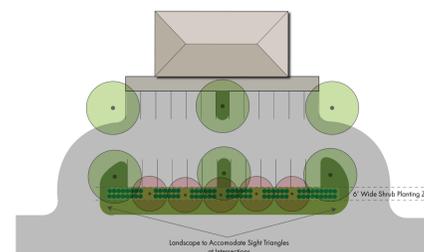


PLACEMENT & DESIGN

Parking must be set back from streets and lot lines, placed to the side or rear when possible, separated from sidewalks, and designed so vehicles do not back into public streets.

Lots must be properly paved, drained, striped, lit, and landscaped. Permeable pavement and green stormwater practices are encouraged where appropriate, while gravel is limited based on location and context.

Required landscaping and screening reduce visual impacts, manage stormwater, and improve comfort for pedestrians and nearby properties.



CIRCULATION AND SAFETY

Larger parking areas must include clearly defined pedestrian paths that safely connect building entrances to sidewalks, trails, transit stops, and public rights-of-way.

Parking and drive aisles must be designed so vehicles can enter and exit safely without backing into public streets or interfering with traffic flow.

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STACKING AND LOADING

Uses like restaurants, banks, and car washes must provide enough on-site stacking space so waiting vehicles do not block parking, sidewalks, or public roads.

Commercial and industrial uses must provide appropriately sized, well-located loading spaces that are off-street, screened from neighborhoods, and designed for safe truck movement.

