



AZTech™
Intelligent Transportation Systems
Partnership

Section 2.0 – C2C DMS
Control

Date Approved by AEC:
11/16/06

Date(s) Revised:

REGIONAL CENTER-TO-CENTER DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN GUIDELINES

2.0 DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SHARED CONTROL

2.0.1 Guideline Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish guidelines related to the interagency posting of messages on Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) utilizing the Center-to-Center System.

2.0.2 Intended Use of Shared Interagency Message Posting

It is the intent of the AZTech™ partner agencies that messages may be posted on devices owned by another agency in situations that have a significant impact on traffic flow or public safety such as evacuations; significant road closures or restrictions on freeways or arterial roadways; and, large, special events. Pre-planned events that warrant the use of another agency's sign should be coordinated well in advance. Posting of freeway travel time messages on arterial DMS may also be considered as a future inter-agency intended use. Agencies should use the utmost judgment and consideration when posting messages on devices belonging to other jurisdictions.

2.1 DEFINITIONS

2.1.1 Devices

These guidelines apply to Dynamic Message Signs deployed for the purpose of informing the traveling public of important information such as traffic conditions, special events, emergency and incident information, and other public service announcements.

2.1.2 After-Hours


After-Hours refers to any circumstance where one agency is unable to make contact with another after reasonable attempts have been made. If an agency has authorized another agency to post messages on its DMS within specified hours, then there is no requirement for the posting agency to make prior contact with the owning agency before posting the message.

2.1.3 Owning Agency

Owning Agency refers to the agency or jurisdiction that owns a specific device and is responsible for its installation, use and maintenance.

2.1.4 Posting Agency

Posting Agency refers to any AZTech™ partner agency with the need to post a message on a device owned by another agency.

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2.1.5 Message Library

A message library is a pre-defined collection of messages for use with a Dynamic Message Sign.

2.2 DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN POSTING GUIDELINES

2.2.1 Permission of Owning Agency During Regular Operating Hours

Before posting a message on a device owned by another agency, the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Analyst/Operator from the posting agency should attempt to contact the owning agency for permission unless prior authorization is granted. When prior authorization is required and attempts to contact the local agency are unsuccessful, the process laid out in 2.2.2 of these guidelines should be followed.

For planned events, the posting agencies are encouraged to coordinate with the owning agency well in advance.

2.2.2 Process for After Hours Message Posting

During after-hours conditions as defined above, the posting agency will refer to the permissions table described in 2.2.3 to determine if the owning agency of the specific device(s) has allowed after-hours posting.


If the specific device(s) is eligible for after-hours posting, the posting agency will select an appropriate message from the message library established and maintained by the owning agency. Only messages from the message library are authorized for after-hours posting by a non-owning agency.

2.2.3 Permissions Table

The permissions table will be established as recommended by these guidelines to ensure that the owning agency retains control of their devices and only allows posting under circumstances defined by the owning agency.

It is the responsibility of each owning agency to prepare and update the permissions table and message library. The permissions tables of each owning agency will be consolidated and shared with all other partner agencies using a procedure and format that is yet to be determined.

The permissions table will list the name/location and direction of each device; whether additional control is allowed; whether pre-emption of existing messages is allowed; whether Amber Alert posting is allowed; email address and telephone number for notification to be sent for after-hours use and specific days and times the agency considers to be “after-hours”; and which agency is authorized to post messages. An example of the permissions table follows:

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Sample Permissions Table

DMS After-Hours Permissions Table for: City of Glendale					
Device Location (including direction of travel)	After-hours Permission Allowed	Message Pre-emption Allowed	Amber Alert Posting Allowed	Email Notification / Telephone Number / After Hours times	Agencies Authorized for After-Hours Posting
75 th Ave and Glendale Ave. <i>WB approach</i>	Yes	Yes	No	arhodes@glendaleaz.com (623) 931-3541 <i>After Hours: 5pm – 8am M-F. All day Sat and Sun.</i>	Peoria, ADOT
51 st Ave and Northern <i>NB approach</i>	No				

2.2.4 Message Pre-emption

If a posting agency, during after-hour conditions, finds an existing message on the DMS, the posting agency should not disturb the existing message. Serious matters involving public safety or highly significant road closures may be considered as higher priority and allow an existing message to be preempted. Under these rare circumstances, posting agencies will first attempt to reach the after-hours contact provided by the owning agency. If contact cannot be made, the posting agency will use the utmost caution and discretion when removing a message posted by the owning agency and give careful consideration to the priority of the message being removed in relation to the posting agency’s message.

2.2.5 Amber Alerts

Posting agencies will not post Amber Alerts on devices owned by other agencies without specific permission of the owner agency.