

Background Information on the Billboard / Off-Premises Signs Inventory

Off-Premises Sign are regulated by under Chapter 7, Section 7.4 of the City of Kalamazoo Zoning Ordinance.

Kalamazoo Zoning Ordinance Page 7-7
(Effective October 18, 2005) As Adopted

Sec. 7.4. Off-Premises Signs

A. Limitation on Number of Off-Premises Sign Structures in the City

No new off-premises sign structure shall be erected when there are ninety-nine (99) or more off-premises sign structures in the city. This limitation is based on the number of potential sign locations and the existing number of conforming sign structures as of the date of the original enactment of this section, September 21, 1987. As of October 18, 2005, there are more than ninety-nine (99) off-premises sign structures in the city, and no new off-premises signs may be erected. All replacements of existing off-premises signs shall comply with all applicable provisions of this Chapter 7.

B. General

Off-premises signs shall be permitted only in the CC, M-1, and M-2 districts and shall comply with the all standards in Sec. 7.4: *Off-Premises Signs*, including without limitation those standards in Table 7.4-1: *Off-Premises Signs*.

TABLE 7.4-1: OFF-PREMISES SIGNS					
Zone District	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Distance Between Off-Premises Signs	Double-Faced Signs Permitted	Side-by-Side Signs Permitted	Maximum Height (feet)
CC District	300	On same side of street, 1,000 feet On opposite sides of the street, 500 feet	Yes	No	30
M-1 District	380 (672 if located along I-94)	On same side of street, 1,000 feet	Yes	Yes, only along I-94 (not BL-94)	35

TABLE 7.4-1: OFF-PREMISES SIGNS					
Zone District	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Distance Between Off-Premises Signs	Double-Faced Signs Permitted	Side-by-Side Signs Permitted	Maximum Height (feet)
	along I-94)	On opposite sides of the street, 500 feet		Maximum square footage per sign face: 300	
M-2 District	572	On same side of the street: 1,000 feet On opposite sides of the street: 500 feet (Distance shall be measured from the closest edge of each off-premises sign)	Yes	Yes, but only when located on the opposite side and parallel to a single 572-square-foot sign face. Maximum square footage per sign face: 300	40

C. Intersections

Off-premises signs shall not be permitted within a one hundred (100) foot radius of public street intersections as measured from the center point of the intersection of each street to the closest edge of the sign. A distance of five hundred (500) feet shall be maintained between all signs at an intersection.

D. Setback Requirements

Off-premises signs shall comply with the setback standards in the zoning districts in which they are allowed (see Chapter 5).

E. Placement Requirements**1. Buildings**

Off-premises signs shall not be located on the roofs of buildings or be attached to or painted on the walls of buildings.

2. No Stacking

Off-premises signs shall not be stacked on top of each other.

F. Radius Requirements

Off-premises signs shall not be permitted within a three hundred (300) foot radius of residential districts, public or private schools (excluding trade schools), religious assemblies, colleges, universities, cemeteries, and dedicated parks.

G. No Off-Premises Signs in Local Historic Districts

Off-premises signs shall not be permitted in established and designated local historic districts.

H. Sign Protrusions

No part of the add copy for a sign shall protrude beyond the sign frame.

Sec. 7.5. Illumination of On-Premises and Off-Premises Signs**A. Lighting Directed Inward and Shielded from Adjacent Residential Districts and Rights-of-Way**

Any lighting for the illumination of signs shall be directed inward and shielded from any adjacent residential districts and public right-of-way, and shall not adversely affect driver visibility or adjacent public thoroughfares. No light source shall be directly visible from any adjacent property located within a residential zone district and public right-of-way.

B. Blinking, Flashing or Fluttering Lights

Blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights may only be permitted within the CCBD and CC zone districts, and shall be limited as follows:

1. No light shall blink, flash, flutter, or change its intensity or color more often than one (1) time every five (5) seconds.
2. If a sign displays images or messages that change automatically (such as moving message banners or “jumbotron”-type electronic signs), each image on such sign that is visible from a public street shall remain unchanged and unmoving for a minimum of five (5) seconds before changing. A sign that displays text messages in a continuous scrolling movement (e.g., ticker-type signs) is exempt from this provision.

C. No Beacon or Strobe Lights

Beacon lights and strobe lights are not permitted.

D. Colored Lights

No colored lights shall be used at any location or in any manner so as to be confused with or construed as traffic-control devices.

E. No Traffic Hazard

Neither the direct or reflected light from light sources shall create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public rights-of-way.

Applicable definitions are found under Chapter 12 of the City of Kalamazoo Zoning Ordinance:

Off-Premises Signs- A sign other than an on premises sign.

Off-Premises Sign Structure – A freestanding column, including associated supports and framework that supports an off-premises sign independent of any building.

Off-Premises Double-Faced – An off-premises sign containing not more than two (2) sign faces located back-to-back and parallel to each other on the same structure.

Statistics:

	Along I-94	Other Areas	Total
Sept. 1987 Billboard / Off-Premises Sign Inventory	11	145	156
Oct. 2006 Billboard / Off-Premises Sign Inventory	11	120	131

where it increased

Breakdown by type of sign (Oct. 2006):

Billboards	123
Off-Premises Signs	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	131