



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 17 2014

In Reply Refer to:
HOTO-1

Ronald H. Merila, P.E.
Deputy Director, Traffic and Planning
100 West Broadway, Suite 31
Montesano, WA 98563

Dear Mr. Merila:

Thank you for your March 5 resubmittal of your request for Interim Approval to use the Clearview alternative letter style on highway signs. At this time, the FHWA is not considering requests for expansion of the use of an alternative to the FHWA Standard Alphabets.

Based on more recent evaluations and in-service performance, it appears that the critical factor in nighttime visibility and legibility is the combination of retroreflective sheeting used for the sign background and legend. Further, the narrower series of the alternative alphabets were not developed for and are not recommended for or conducive to conventional roadway signing, particularly Street Name signs. Based on these and other reasons, we expect to rescind the Interim Approval in the near future.

This action does not restrict use of an alternative letter style on Community Wayfinding signs as provided in Paragraph 31 of Section 2D.50 of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD).

We regret that we cannot approve your request. For recordkeeping purposes, we have assigned your request the following number and title: "IA-5.31 – Clearview—Grays Harbor County, WA (DENIED)." Please contact Mr. Kevin Sylvester of my staff at Kevin.Sylvester@dot.gov if you should have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark R. Kehrli
Director, Office of Transportation
Operations