

**CHAPTER 76  
NAMING ROADS AND NUMBERING  
BUILDINGS**

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**[History:** cr., 08/25/73 sub nom. ch. 19; renum. 03/10/78.]

**State Law Reference:** Sections 59.01, 59.07(64), 59.07(65) and 60.18(23), Wis. Stats.

**76.01 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a rural road naming and numbering system and a rural building numbering system for Dane County, to create and establish regulations for such system and to provide for its administration, control and enforcement. This chapter is created, adopted and amended pursuant to the authority granted in s. 59.54(4) and (4m), Wis. Stats.

**[History:** am., Sub. 1 to OA 32, 1999-2000, pub. 06/27/00.]

**76.02 ROAD NAME ADMINISTRATION.** Oversight of the rural road naming system shall be provided by the committee and shall be administered by the department. Costs to the county for rural road naming shall be limited to necessary administrative costs, including the costs of developing and maintaining a master index of road names and preparation of an annual official road naming map. The cost of securing, erecting and maintaining rural road naming signs shall be the responsibility of the towns.

**[History:** am., Sub. 1 to OA 26, 1989-90, pub. 06/01/90.]

**76.025 DEFINITIONS.** As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

- (1) Committee** refers to that committee of the Dane County Board of Supervisors which is designated to act as the county's zoning agency under sec. 59.69(2)(a)1., Wis. Stats.
- (2) Department** refers to the Dane County Department of Planning and Development.
- (3) Private road** means a lane, street or other improved surface on privately owned lands which is designed and ordinarily used for vehicular travel within a commercial, business, industrial, apartment or condominium development.
- (4) Rural numbering system** refers to the system created by this chapter for the numbering of parcels in the unincorporated areas of Dane County.
- (5) Rural numbering system components** refers to the numbers, letters, frames and posts used in the rural numbering system, as specified in sec. 76.07(2).

**[History:** cr., Sub. 1 to OA 26, 1989-90, pub. 06/01/90; (1) and (2) am., Sub. 1 to OA 32, 1999-2000, pub. 06/27/00.]

**76.03 ROAD NAMING SELECTION.** There is hereby established a uniform system of names for all roads in the unincorporated areas of Dane County as follows:

- (1)** U.S. and state trunk highways which are presently designated by number by the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Highways shall retain such designation. New U.S. and state trunk highways shall be numbered by the State Division of Highways.
- (2)** All county highways which are presently designated by letter by the county board's standing transportation committee shall retain such designation. New county highways shall be named by the county board's standing transportation committee.
- (3)** All other public roads shall be designated by name according to the following procedure:
  - (a)** All roads named on the official road naming map prepared by the Dane County Surveyor and approved by the committee on March 20, 1973, shall retain their names.
  - (b)** Town boards may, by resolution, name new town roads and submit the name and a map showing its location to the committee for comparison of existing road names to avoid conflicts with other roads with a similar or identical name. Should there be a conflict with

other road names, the committee shall cooperate with the town board in the selection of a name which does not conflict with other road names. Should there not be any conflict or a name selected jointly and upon approval by the committee, the name shall be added to the master index of road names for inclusion on the next official road naming map.

**(c)** Those roads within new subdivisions of land shall be named in accordance with section 75.19(1)(t) of the land division and subdivision regulations of Dane County. Upon approval of the subdivision by the committee and recording in the Dane County Register of Deeds Office, the road names thereon shall be added to the master index of road names for inclusion on the next official road naming map.

**(d)** Those roads which are included in the town road maintenance system program, but which are dead-end roads and serve only one farm or set of buildings, need not be included in the road naming program.

**(e)** The Dane County Zoning Administrator shall submit to the Dane County Surveyor the names of all roads added to the master index of road names upon approval by the committee of such names as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) above for inclusion on the official road naming map. Those roads which because of their length or location cannot be legibly located on the map shall be listed on the key index of the map with the letters NS preceding the road name. However, the general location of the road on the map by the grid locator system shall be shown. The scale of the official road naming map shall be not smaller than 1" = 1 mile. Upon completion of the official road naming map by the county surveyor, the original shall be submitted to the committee for its approval.

**(f)** When consistent with the public interest in providing government and emergency services and on application of the owner, the department may name private roads following the same process that is used in naming public roads, provided that the owner or owners of the lands on which any such private road is located agree by written instrument to maintain approved signs displaying the road name or names assigned by the department. An owner or owners, together with heirs, successors and assigns, shall not thereafter change the name of any such road without written consent of the department.

[**History:** (3)(f) cr., Sub. 1 to OA 26, 1989-90, pub. 06/01/90; (2) am., Sub. 1 to OA 32, 1999-2000, pub. 06/27/00.]

**76.04 ROAD NAME SIGNS. (1) General requirements.**

Road name signs shall be erected at the intersections of all roads, showing the names of the roads in accordance with the official road naming map. All intersection signs shall be four-way unless a multiple intersection requires a larger sign. Signs shall be so erected as to be clearly visible to the road using public and shall be of a uniform design and color, mounted on suitable posts in a uniform manner throughout the county. The furnishing of name plates for U.S., state and county highways at intersections with the town roads shall be at the discretion of the town boards. Road name signs are the responsibility of the town in which the road is located except that road name signs within private commercial, business, industrial, apartment and condominium complexes shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

**(2) Specifications.** The type of lettering, composition, material, color, mounting posts and accessories shall be according to the standard design manufactured by the Wisconsin Prison Industries or their equivalent and are specifically described as follows:

**(a)** Green background, white letters and white border embossed.

**(b)** 16 gauge Paintlok Steel. 6" wide, catalog No. 904.

**(c)** Main letters 4" in height with 7/16" stroke, smaller letters 3" in height with 5/16" stroke.

**(d)** Mountings and accessories as designed and provided by the Wisconsin State Prison Industries.

**(e)** Mounting post 2" diameter, 10 feet long galvanized pipe or tubing, set so that the lower part of the bracket is 7 feet above ground level. They may be purchased from the state prison by the Dane County Purchasing Department.

**(3) Restrictions.** No other signs except those specified above shall be erected or used under the road naming plan established by this chapter. In those towns which have erected road naming signs prior to passage of this chapter, such signs may be used until replacement is necessary, at which time the signs prescribed herein or their equivalent shall be erected. This exception shall not apply where signs must be replaced because of changes in road names established by the official road naming map.