

This guide contains information based on regulations governing the erection of new billboards in the unincorporated areas of Oconee County. It is in no way intended to be a comprehensive instruction manual, but is provided to the public solely to help answer some of the more common questions related to the permitting and construction of billboards. Always consult the most current version of adopted county regulations prior to proceeding with any project.

This document only deals with rules enforced by Oconee County, South Carolina- regulations enforced by other entities (Federal and State) may also apply. Consult the appropriate regulatory authority for more information.

For more information on Billboard Land Use Permits, contact:

Oconee County Planning Department
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-638-4218
Fax: 864-638-4168

Website: www.oconeesc.com/planning

For more information on Building Permits, contact:

Oconee County Building Codes Dept.
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-718-1005
Fax: 864-638-4168

Website: www.oconeesc.com/buildingcodes

OCONEE COUNTY BILLBOARD REGULATIONS



PERMITTING NEW
BILLBOARDS IN THE
UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF
OCONEE COUNTY

Last updated on 7/15/09



PERMITS FOR BILLBOARDS

New billboards erected in the unincorporated areas of Oconee County require 2 county permits: a **Land Use Permit**, and a **Building Permit**.

Land Use Permits must be obtained prior to making application for a Building Permit.

Permits MAY be required from other governmental entities (state, federal). Consult ALL appropriate agencies prior to proceeding with any proposed billboard project.

This document relates only to county-issued permits for billboards. Other types of signage may be subject to different standards. For more information, contact the Planning Department or the Building Codes Department.

LAND USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Billboard Land Use Permits are issued under regulations contained in the Oconee County Sign Control Ordinance (2007-09). Among the standards that new billboards must meet include:

- Billboards with sign areas greater than seventy-five (75) square feet may not be located on 2-lane roads.
- All new billboards must be at least 1,300 feet from all existing billboards (measured according to the shortest route of ordinary travel along the public thoroughfare)
- No stacked billboards will be permitted.
- No billboards may be located along any highway designated scenic by the federal, state or county government.

The following must be submitted to the Planning Department at the time of application for a Billboard Land Use Permit:

- A completed land use permit application form
- \$100 application fee (checks made out to Oconee County)
- Detailed site plan (stamped by a surveyor licensed by the State of South Carolina) showing the proposed location, distance from the closest existing billboard, and all right-of-ways, easements, property lines, and setbacks
- Billboard type and total sign area (See ordinance for definition)

Copies of the Sign Control Ordinance and Land Use Permit Applications may be obtained at:

www.oconeesc.com/planning

BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The following must be submitted to the Building Codes Department at the time of application for a building permit to erect a billboard:

- A valid land use permit issued by the Planning Department
- A completed building permit application form signed by appropriate responsible party (see note on approved applicants below)
- A professional site plan clearly showing all setbacks, all property lines, and sign placement (may be copy of plan submitted for land use permit)
- two (2) sets of sign plans stamped by an engineer licensed by the State of SC
- two (2) sets of electrical plans (if applicable)
- Appropriate fees

Notes:

Approved Applicants– Building permits for billboards with lighting or other electrical features may be pulled by a licensed electrician as a single project; in the event electrical work will be permitted separately, two (2) permits will be necessary. If two (2) or more permits are required, all applications must be presented by responsible parties at the same time.

Contact Building Codes staff for rules on using contractor's employees as permit applicants.

Billboards are subject to three (3) inspections: footing, electrical rough-in, and final.

All billboards shall be built in accordance with current applicable codes and standards.