

Digital/Electronic Signs

Minimum Message Hold and Transition Time Provisions

	Hold/Dwell Time	Transition Time
AWC Model Sign Code (Association of WA Cities)	Digital Signs: 8 seconds Electronic Message Center Signs: 10 seconds	Min./Max. of 1.5 seconds
IMLA Model Sign Code (International Municipal Lawyers Assoc.)	10 seconds	Less than or equal to 2 seconds
Lacey	10 seconds	Less than or equal to 2 seconds
Tumwater	None	None
Yelm	No hold time requirement, just max. brightness	None
Bremerton	8 seconds	None
Lakewood	5 seconds	
Edmonds	20 seconds	
Olympia	AutoMall ID Sign: 3 minutes Public Service Signs at Schools: 5 minutes Existing Commercial: None	None

The recommendation in the US Dept. of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) memo titled "Guidance on Off-Premise Changeable Message Signs" is that the messages change no more frequently than between 4 – 10 seconds, with a minimum of 8 seconds recommended. The memo also suggests that the transition time between messages be between 1- 4 seconds, with 1 – 2 seconds recommended.