SIGN BYLAW NO. 1250

A Bylaw to regulate the number, size, type, form, appearance, and location of signs within the City of Langford
This Bylaw has been consolidated for convenience only. Where applicable, capitalization, numerical order, and numbering have been altered for consistency. Copies of the original Bylaw and amendments may be viewed at the City of Langford City Hall, 2nd Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, BC V9B 2X8, phone 250-478-7882. The bylaw is also available on our website www.cityoflangford.ca.

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CITY OF LANGFORD
BYLAW NO. 1250

A Bylaw to Regulate the Number, Size, Type, Form, Appearance, and Location of Signs within the City of Langford

Authority

Under Section 908 (Regulation of Signs) of the Local Government Act and subject to the Highway Act and section 135 of the Motor Vehicle Act, Council may by bylaw regulate the number, size, type, form, appearance and location of any signs, and such a bylaw may make different regulations for different zones established under a zoning bylaw, and may make different regulations for different classes of highways and portions of them. Under Section 8(4) of the Community Charter, Council may by bylaw regulate and impose requirements in relation to the erection, placing, alteration, maintenance, demolition and removal of a sign, sign board, advertisement, advertising device or structure, or any class of them.

Intent of the Bylaw

The purpose of these sign regulations is to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication; to encourage signs that are pleasing to the eye in terms of colour, size, design, location, and numbers; to minimize any possibility of signs being erected that could pose a hazard to life or property or be construed to be a traffic hazard; to minimize the adverse effect of signs on nearby public and private property; and to enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations.

The Council of the City of Langford, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Title

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “City of Langford Sign Bylaw No. 1250, 2009”.

2. Definitions

Words and phrases used in this Bylaw shall have the meanings set forth in this section. Words and phrases not defined in this section, but defined in Zoning Bylaw No. 300 have the meanings set forth in that Bylaw.

Abandoned Sign means a sign or sign support structure that directs attention to an activity, business, product, or service no longer conducted or available on the lot on which the sign is located or at the location stated on the sign.

Animated Sign means all signs that move or depict movement in any way, by any means, other than a variable electronic sign.

Banner Sign means a sign composed of lightweight material, including cloth, canvas or similar fabric.
**Billboard** means a sign that directs attention to goods, products or services not sold or provided on the premises on which the sign is located, and includes:

1. Poster panels or bulletins, typically mounted on a building wall or freestanding structure with advertising copy in the form of pasted paper;
2. Multi-prisms providing alternating or sequential messages in a single display area; and
3. Bulletins in which the advertiser’s message is painted directly on the background of a wall-mounted or freestanding display area.

**Boulevard** means the area between the curb lines, the lateral lines or the shoulder of a roadway and the adjacent property line. *(Bylaw No. 1287)*

**Canopy Sign** means a sign that is part of or attached to an awning, canopy, or other fabric, plastic, or structural protective element installed over a window, door, entrance, outdoor service area, porte cochère or similar type of entrance way.

**Directional Sign** means a sign such as a parking lot entrance or exit sign, giving directions, instructions, or facility information, which may contain the name, logo and establishment but no advertising copy.

**Directory Sign** means a sign consisting of only the names and locations of the occupants of a building or other premises or food and beverage menu board items.

**Façade Sign** means a single-faced sign displayed on a building face with its display surface parallel to and not protruding any further than 15 cm from the building face, and includes signage applied directly onto a façade of a principal building or structure.

**Flag** means any fabric, banner, or bunting containing distinctive colours, patterns, or symbols, used as a symbol of a government, political subdivision, or other entity.

**Freestanding sign** means a sign that has its own structural support independent of a building or other structure, but excluding a sandwich board sign.

**Graphics** means one or more written or pictorial representations.

**Highway** means every road, street, lane or right-of-way designed or intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and every place or passageway to which the public, for the purpose of parking or servicing of vehicles, has access or is invited. *(Bylaw No. 1287)*

**Illuminated Sign** means a sign with an internal light source or designed to reflect light from an external source intentionally directed at it.

**Mural** means a painted scene that does not advertise a business or product, painted upon any outside wall or other integral part of a building.

**Neon sign** means a sign that uses exposed neon tubing as the principal illumination method.
Painted wall sign means a sign that is painted upon any wall or any exterior integral part of a building.

Political Sign means a sign used to promote the election of a person or political party or a position in a plebiscite or referendum.

Portable Sign means a sign that is not permanently affixed to a building or base and stands on the ground without any additional support, and that can be readily carried or transported.

Projecting Sign means a sign, other than a façade or canopy sign that is attached to, and projects from, a structure, a building face, or a wall in such a manner that it extends generally perpendicularly more than 15 cm beyond the surface of such structure, building or wall.

Roof Sign means a sign erected and constructed wholly or partially on and over the roof of a building, supported by the roof structure, and extending vertically above any portion of the roof.

Sandwich Board Sign means a sign that is self-supporting, easily moved, and not affixed to any building, vehicle or base structure, or to the ground. (Replaced by Bylaw No. 1287)

Sign means an identification, description, illustration, or device illuminated or non-illuminated, that is visible from any public street and that directs attention to a product, place, activity, person, institution, business, or solicitation, but does not include:

1. Displays of goods placed inside a window;
2. Gravestones or other markers placed for historical or memorial purposes;
3. Private celebratory or holiday decorations;
4. Murals; or
5. Traffic control devices.

Sign Area means the entire area of a sign on which graphics could be placed, including any frame or structural feature which forms an integral part of the display, but

1. In the case of a double face or a multi-face sign, only half of the total area of all sign faces shall be included in sign area calculation;
2. In the case of an irregularly shaped sign, the sign area shall be the area of the smallest rectangle within which all letters and other graphics would fit;
3. In the case of a free standing the sign area shall be the total area of all the faces used for the sign; and
4. The area of a neon sign shall be the area of the smallest rectangle within which all letters comprising the sign would fit, and other graphics and highlights are not to be included in the calculation of sign area.

Sign Zone means a zone established by s.5 of this Bylaw.

Suspended Sign means a sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal building surface.

Temporary New Business Sign means a sign that directs attention to the opening of a new business.

Temporary Real Estate Sign means a sign on a lot that directs attention to the fact that the lot, or the lot and buildings on the lot, are for sale, for rent, or open for viewing.
**Temporary Development Sign** means a sign on a lot that directs attention to the fact that the lot, or the lot and buildings on the lot, are for sale, for rent, open for viewing, general marketing and can include signage relating to the sites contractors and sub-contractors and the financial institutions providing funding and other professional advisors.

**Traffic Control Device** means a sign, stop sign, signal line, parking space, barrier, traffic control signal, traffic control flashing signal, or device placed or erected under the provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act* or the City’s Traffic and Parking Bylaw for the purpose of regulating and controlling vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

**Variable Electronic Sign** means a sign on which messages are displayed by means of light emitting diodes (LED), liquid crystal display (LCD), plasma, or other similar technology.

**Wall Sign** means a sign attached to any wall other than the supporting exterior wall of a principal building or structure on a property, including any retaining wall, freestanding wall, or wall enclosing the perimeter of a property.

**Window Sign** means a sign and/or paintings fixed to the interior or exterior of a window including a window in a door.

3. **General Regulations**

   a) No person shall erect, place, construct, or alter any sign without first obtaining the necessary permit, as provided under this Bylaw.

   b) No person shall maintain or allow any sign to remain on, or be affixed to, the lands or premises of which that person is the owner or occupier unless a permit in respect of the sign has been issued pursuant to this Bylaw.

   c) Notwithstanding Section 3(a) and 3(b), the following sign types do not require a permit:

      i. window signs located on the same premises as the business to which attention is being directed;

      ii. “No Trespassing” signs that do not exceed a sign area of .4 m²;

      iii. temporary real estate signs that meet the requirements in Section 7(d), provided the sign is on the property to which the sign pertains;

      iv. political signs;

      v. signs or notices exhibited by the authority of the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia or any municipal authority;

      vi. signs comprising semi-transparent material attached to temporary construction fencing or hoarding for the purpose of marketing the development under construction; and

      vii. changes in sign copy on a sign structure which is the subject of a sign permit.

   d) A change in sign copy on a sign structure is not subject to a sign permit.
e) Notwithstanding subsection 3(c), a sign may, subject to approval by permit as provided under this bylaw, be placed on premises that do not contain the business to which it directs attention as long as it pertains to the subject business and provided that the business is situated on a lot that does not abut a highway, the sign is placed on a lot that is adjacent to the lot on which the business is situated, and written approval of the owner of the lot on which the sign is to be placed is provided with the permit application.

f) Signs shall be located on the premises containing the business to which they direct attention.

g) Signs projecting over a pedestrian area shall have a minimum clearance to the underside of the projection of 2.5m above the finished grade or sidewalk.

h) Signs projecting over an area used by vehicular traffic shall have a minimum clearance to the underside of the projection of 4.5m above the finished grade.

i) No sign shall be located, erected or lighted in such a manner as to interfere with the visibility of a traffic control device or to interfere with visibility at an access to or egress from a highway with the exception of a sign located entirely within the portion of a lot on which the Zoning Bylaw permits the siting of a building other than a fence.

j) No façade sign shall project more than 15 cm from the building face or wall to which the sign is attached, with the exception of illuminated façade signs which may project up to .6m from the building face or wall to which the sign is attached.

k) No person shall affix any sign to a tree or utility pole;

l) No person shall affix any sign to a fence, with the exception of the following:

   i. signs for home occupation uses complying with Section 13;
   ii. "No Trespassing" signs and directional signs.
   iii. signs affixed to fences enclosing outdoor sports fields; and
   iv. temporary development signs complying with Section 7.

m) Political signs shall:

   i. be removed within seven (7) days following the election or referendum to which they pertain;
   ii. not be erected on public property or so as to interfere with pedestrian or traffic safety;

n) In addition to other permitted signs, wall-mounted actual size menu signs may be displayed on any premises containing a restaurant.
4. **Prohibited Signs**

   a) No person shall erect, construct, place, alter, or maintain any of the following signs on any premises:

      i. abandoned signs shall not remain in place for more than 60 days;
      ii. pennants, bunting, balloons, or other inflatable devices;
      iii. billboards;
      iv. painted wall signs, including signs affixed to walls or structures other than the walls of a principal building or structure on a property;
      v. portable signs except as permitted in Section 15;
      vi. roof signs;
      vii. wind activated devices designed to attract the attention of the public;
      viii. signs displaying arrows to direct attention towards real estate; and
      xiii. all animated signs other than variable electronic signs.

5. **Sign Zones**

   a) For the purposes of this Bylaw, the area within the boundaries of the City is divided into four zones as follows:

      i. sign Zone A comprising the zones designated by Zoning Bylaw No. 300 as Greenbelt Residential, Rural Residential and Residential;
      ii. sign Zone B comprising the zones designated by Zoning Bylaw No. 300 as Multiple Residential;
      iii. sign Zone C comprising the zones designated by Zoning Bylaw No. 300 as Greenbelt, Agricultural;
      iv. Sign Zone D comprising the Pedestrian Commercial Zone – Schedule B, the Sooke Revitalization Area – Schedule C and Comprehensive Development Zones 3, 4 and 6; and

   b) A sign permit may be issued for the following sign types in their respective sign zones as follows:

      i. Sign Zone A (Greenbelt Residential, Rural Residential and Residential)

         (1) home occupation signs

      ii. Sign Zone B (Multiple Residential)

         (1) freestanding signs to identify the building
         (2) home occupation signs
iii. Sign Zone C (Greenbelt, Agricultural)

(1) banner signs
(2) façade signs
(3) freestanding signs
(4) home occupation signs
(5) projecting signs
(6) suspended signs

iv. Sign Zone D (Schedule B - Pedestrian Oriented Commercial, Schedule C - the Sooke Revitalization Area, and Comprehensive Development Zones 3, 4 and 6)

(1) banner signs
(2) façade signs
(3) freestanding signs
(4) home occupation signs
(5) projecting signs
(6) sandwich board signs
(7) suspended signs
(8) variable electronic signs

v. Sign Zone E (Commercial, Industrial/Business Park, Industrial, Institutional and Comprehensive Development Zones)

(1) banner signs
(2) façade signs
(3) freestanding signs
(4) home occupation signs
(5) projecting signs
(6) sandwich board signs
(7) suspended signs
(8) variable electronic signs

6. Illumination of Signs

a) Lighting for illuminated signs shall be downcast or shielded to minimize reflective impact on the night sky by being ground oriented.

b) Lighting for illuminated signs shall not shine directly onto neighbouring premises or into the direction of oncoming traffic.

7. Temporary Signs

a) The applicant must obtain a Bylaw No. 33 permit and highway encroachment agreement for any sign placed on a highway.

b) Temporary new business signs:

i. shall not be of a sign type that is not permitted by this Bylaw;
c) Sign erection within a City right-of-way must be performed by a municipal contractor with all costs of the erection paid in full by the applicant prior to the erection.

d) Temporary Real Estate signs shall not exceed a sign area of 1m² per side.

e) Temporary Development signs shall:

i. not exceed an area of 6m² (64ft²) per road frontage for lots less than or equal to 743m² (8,000ft²) in area;  
ii. not exceed an area of 12m² (128ft²) per road frontage for lots greater than 743m² (8,000ft²) and less than or equal to 1,486m² (16,000ft²) in area; and  
iii. not exceed an area of 18m² (192ft²) per road frontage for lots greater than 1,486m² (16,000ft²) in area.

f) If the owner does not remove a temporary sign from public or private property when the permit expires, the City may remove the sign at the owner's expense.

g) If any sign is placed on a municipal boulevard or highway contrary to this Bylaw, or without permit, may be removed by the City. Impounded signs will be held for a period of 30 days, at which time they will become the property of the City unless returned to their owner upon payment of the impound fee specified in Schedule A of this Bylaw.

8. **Directional Signs**

A directional sign shall:

a) not exceed 3 m in height if a freestanding sign; and  
b) not exceed 1 m² in sign area, per side, with the exception that directional signs for emergency services may be increased to a maximum area of 9.5 m² per side.

9. **Directory Signs**

a) A directory sign shall:

i. not exceed a sign area of 2 m²;  
ii. be erected on, and parallel to, the face of a building or structure; and

b) One directory sign only is permitted in respect of each separate highway frontage of the premises to which it pertains.
10. Façade Signs

a) Façade signs shall:

i. be singular or multiple, but shall not exceed a sign area of 25m\(^2\) (269ft\(^2\)) or 17 percent of the area of the façade of the building to which it is attached, whichever is less, except that for a business with a gross floor area of more than 3 716 m\(^2\) (40 000 ft\(^2\)) a façade sign may exceed 25m\(^2\), but shall not exceed 17 percent of the area of the façade of the building to which it is attached.

ii. canopy signs are included in the total allowable façade sign area;

iii. only be placed on those building façades facing a street or internal access route, and for this purpose a building façade is deemed to face a street or access route if the angle formed by the façade and the street or access route is 45 degrees or less;

iv. not be located less than 2.5 m above the finished grade or sidewalk immediately adjacent to the building, whichever is higher, in the case of a sign displayed on a building of two storeys or higher;

v. not extend horizontally beyond the wall of the building to which it is attached; and

vi. not be erected on any part of the roof of the building to which it is attached or extend above the roofline including any parapet.

11. Freestanding Signs

a) A freestanding sign shall:

i. be limited to one per highway frontage of any lot;

ii. have no more than two sides displaying copy;

iii. in Sign Zone D (Pedestrian Oriented Commercial – Schedule B, Sooke Revitalization Area – Schedule C and Comprehensive Development Zones 3,4 and 6) the maximum height is 3.5m, and the maximum sign area is 4.5m\(^2\) per side;

iv. be restricted to business premises having a street frontage of at least 10 m;

v. have a maximum height of 7m above the adjacent finished grade of the sidewalk, or where there is no sidewalk, the adjacent street grade;

vi. have a maximum sign area of 9m\(^2\) per side in the case of business premises with a gross floor area less than or equal to 3,700 m\(^2\);

vii. have a maximum sign area of 12m\(^2\) per side in the case of business premises with a gross floor area greater than 3,700 m\(^2\) on a single lot, in a single strata plan or in a single building; and

viii. have a maximum sign area of 3m\(^2\) and a maximum height of 1.5 m from grade, in the case of a sign erected on the premises of multifamily residential buildings, schools and churches.
12. **Home Occupation Signs**

a) Home occupation signs

i. are permitted in conjunction with a home occupation use permitted by Zoning Bylaw No. 300 subject to Section 3.09 of that Bylaw;

ii. shall be limited to one sign per home;

iii. shall not be internally illuminated or be composed of neon;

iv. shall have a maximum sign area of 0.2 m² (2 ft²) per side;

v. shall have a maximum height of 2 m above the finished grade; and

vi. shall be one of the following sign types:

1. façade sign, attached to the dwelling or accessory building containing the home occupation use or to a fence enclosing the lot;

2. window sign; or

3. freestanding sign.

13. **Projecting and Suspended Signs**

a) Projecting signs and suspended signs shall:

i. be two-sided, with sign copy on both sides;

ii. have a maximum sign area of 2 m²; and

iii. be attached to the first storey of a building.

14. **Sandwich Board Signs**

a) Sandwich Board signs shall:

i. not exceed one (1) per business premises; *(Bylaw No. 1287)*

ii. have maximum dimensions of .6 m (2 ft) by .9 m (3 ft) per side;

iii. not be placed on any municipal Boulevard or Highway unless:

a. the Sandwich Board Sign does not obstruct the safe and efficient movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, obstruct vehicular or pedestrian sightlines, or otherwise create a safety hazard to vehicles, pedestrians or other persons;

b. the Sandwich Board Sign does not damage flowerbeds, shrubs or other landscaping located on the municipal Boulevard or Highway; and

c. the Sandwich Board Sign pertains only to a licenced business occupying and operating from that property fronting the municipal Boulevard or Highway on which the Sandwich Board Sign is erected.

iv. only be placed on the same lot or site as the business to which they direct attention;

v. not be located or erected in such a manner as to interfere with pedestrian walkways or access to businesses or parking areas; a minimum clear space of 1.5m is required between the sign an any immovable object;

vi. be placed at ground level; and
vii. only be displayed during operating hours of the business to which they
direct attention;

a. Permit applications for sandwich board signs must indicate on a site plan the
location in which the sign will be displayed; and

b. Sandwich board signs placed on municipal boulevards or highways contrary to
this Bylaw, or without permit, may be removed by the City. Impounded signs will
be held for a period of 30 days, at which time they will become the property of the
City unless returned to their owner upon payment of the impound fee specified in
Schedule A of this Bylaw.

15. Variable Electronic Signs

a) No Electronic Variable Message Center sign area shall exceed 3 m² (32 sq ft²)
per side;

b) The maximum area in square metres of an Electronic Variable Message Centre
is 15% of the highway frontage in metres of the site on which the sign is located.
i.e. 20 m of road frontage will equal to 3 m² of message centre per side;

c) All message centers must be three colour RGB (RED GREEN BLUE); and

d) Are not subject to Section 3(f).

16. Banners

a) Wall mounted banners are only permitted up to a 60 day period for new businesses; and

b) Projecting banner signs are permitted providing the area does not exceed 1m² per side,
the minimum height from grade is 2.5m, and the banner must be affixed to a frame at all
four corners.

17. Sign Design Standards

a) Signs shall be professionally prepared; and

b) Signs shall comply with the design standards for signage found in the section of
the Official Community Plan that pertains to the development permit area in
which they are placed.

18. Sign Construction Standards

a) All signage shall comply with the requirements of the BC Building Code;

b) Signs shall be securely attached to the ground or building surface upon which
they are placed;

c) Where a sign is attached to a building, the portion of the building to which such
sign is attached shall be structurally sound and shall be structurally adequate to
support all additional loads;
d) Signs shall be anchored to prevent any lateral movement that could cause wear on supporting members or connections;

e) All signs together with their supporting structures and any related electrical equipment shall be kept fully operable, in good repair, and maintained in a safe, neat, clean, and attractive condition; and

f) Where the Building Inspector deems it necessary, the design and construction of a sign shall be certified by a professional engineer.

19. Application for Sign Permit

a) Any person wishing to construct, alter, or relocate a sign for which this Bylaw requires a permit shall make an application to the City Planner in the form of Schedule A, unless the construction, alteration or relocation of the sign has been authorized by the issuance of a development permit.

b) An application must include:

i. the civic address of the lot, premises, building or structure on which the sign is to be placed, erected or altered;
ii. the written authorization of the owner of the land;
iii. a statement of the number and type of signs that are already affixed or placed on the lot or premises;
iv. one copy of a scaled drawing for each side of the sign, giving all dimensions and areas and showing colours and materials used; and
v. one copy of a drawing showing the position of the proposed sign as it will appear attached to the building or structure and showing the method of attachment, or in the case of a freestanding sign, the location of the sign on the land and the method of installation.

c) Every applicant for a sign permit shall pay to the City, at the time of application, a fee based on the type of sign listed in Schedule A of this Bylaw.

d) No person shall proceed with the placing, erection, or altering of any sign until the permit has been issued. In the event that any sign is placed, erected or altered without a permit having previously been obtained, the fee for the permit shall be double the amount which would have been payable had the permit been obtained before commencement of the work.

e) The City Planner can authorize a variance up to 25% of a quantitative Sign Bylaw regulation (i.e. area, height, etc.) if applied for in a Development Permit and such that the proposal is in accordance with the Development Permit Area Design Guidelines.

20. Penalties

Every person who contravenes this Bylaw by doing any act that it forbids, or omitting to do any act it requires to be done is guilty of an offence and shall upon conviction be liable to the penalties prescribed in the Offence Act.
21. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Bylaw.

22. Repeal

City of Langford Sign Bylaw No. 700 is repealed.

READ a first time this 19th day of January, 2009.
READ a second time this 2nd day of February, 2009.
READ a third time this 2nd day of February, 2009.
ADOPTED this 16th day of February, 2009.

______________________________     ______________________________
Mayor                                Clerk-Administrator
### Schedule A – Fee Schedule

(Table Replaced by Bylaw No. 1287)

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<th>Fee (Base Fee is $100)</th>
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<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canopy</td>
<td>Base fee + $50 per sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directional</td>
<td>Base fee + $50 per sign</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
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<td>Fascia</td>
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<td>Freestanding</td>
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<td>No Trespassing</td>
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<td>Political</td>
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<td>Projecting and Suspended</td>
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<td>Sandwich Board Sign (initial permit application)</td>
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<td>Sandwich Board Sign (application to renew existing permit)</td>
<td>$20 per sign per calendar year</td>
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<td>Temporary Construction</td>
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<td>Temporary New Business</td>
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<th>Alteration of Existing Sign</th>
<th>Base fee + $50 per sign</th>
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<tr>
<td>Any combination of two or more signs or sign types (excluding home occupation, no trespassing, and political signs)</td>
<td>Base fee + $50 per sign</td>
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<tr>
<th>Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does not include changing a tenant sign face in an existing sign structure or freestanding sign that is the subject of an approved sign development permit, as this change does not require a permit.</td>
<td>Base fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation Without SDP Application</td>
<td>Double Applicable Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation Prior to Permit Issuance</td>
<td>Double Applicable Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandwich Board Sign without permit (impound fee)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Schedule B – Pedestrian-Oriented Commercial

Legend
- Lakes
- Langford Boundary
- Parcels
- Proposed Zone D

Sign Zone D
Pedestrian Downtown
Schedule C – Sooke Road Revitalization Area