Frequently Asked Questions

Tourism Area Corridor Signage Program.

1. What is the Tourist Area and Corridor (TAC) Signage Program?
    - The Tourist Area and Corridor (TAC) Signage Program is a set of guidelines that govern the use of signs to direct tourists to groups of attractions along a designated geographical area. Eligible attractions can have signs to assist visitors in navigating to these destinations.

2. What type of attractions are eligible to be part of the program?
    - To be eligible for signage from the nearest TAC corridor, individual attractions providing recreation, historical, cultural, or leisure activities to the public, must meet specific criteria. Please refer to the TAC brochure for the list. (www.roads.maryland.gov/tac)

3. Who is eligible for symbol signs?
    - Certain categories of attractions are eligible for symbol signs. Please refer to the TAC brochure for additional information. (www.roads.maryland.gov/tac)

4. What are the eligibility requirements for attractions from the winery/brewery/distillery industry?
    - In addition to the criteria in the brochure, the adult beverage industry must differentiate itself from tasting rooms and bars. This is accomplished by offering at least one tour per day according to a publicly available schedule.

5. How does TAC work?
    - The first TAC signs in the series are located on major highways and may name the geographical area. The ramp signs and conventional road area signs guide motorists to the corridor or sub-area. The last set of signs contains directional arrows, lists the attraction name or symbol and guides motorists to the drop-off zone or parking entrance.

6. How do I submit an application?
    - Please visit our website at www.roads.maryland.gov/tac to review the documents and complete the application. You will need the information in the TAC brochure to complete the application. Upon submitting the application, you will receive an email with further instructions.

7. What are the costs?
    - The non-refundable application fee cost $500.
    - There is also an annual administration fee due when the signage plan is approved and its anniversary of final approval of sign installation in each subsequence year. Starting October 1st 2024, the annual administration fee is $1000. SHA will review the administration fee annually and revise it at its discretion.
    - The eligible attractions must hire a registered professional engineer to determine where sign installations are appropriate and to produce plans
    - The eligible attractions must hire a licensed and bonded contractor to install the signs.

8. Is the $1,000 annual administration fee per sign or per attraction?
    - The annual administration fee is per attraction.

9. When will I find out my application determination?
    - After your application fee is received, you may expect an application response via email in approximately 12 to 16 weeks.

10. How do I find a Professional Engineer (P.E.) to develop and seal the signage plan?
    - The attraction is responsible for hiring a traffic engineer, who is a licensed professional engineer, to develop and seal the signage plan. The Maryland P.E. roster can be found at the link below:

      https://www.dllr.state.md.us/cgi-bin/ElectronicLicensing/OP_search/OP_search.cgi?calling_app=PE::PE_qselect

11. Where will my signs be installed? Can I have my signs on multiple roadways?
    - Regarding the location of TAC signage, the attraction's P.E. will identify the appropriate sign locations following the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and other Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. The design must meet the size, color, reflectivity, and material guidelines. SHA reserves the right to reject sign designs that are not compliant with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

12. How do I find a contractor to install the signs?
    - Please check with your P.E. for contractor resources.

13. Who will maintain the sign?
    - The attraction is responsible for maintaining, removing, and replacing signs with their contractor.

14. What will happen if an attraction closes or changes its name?
    - The attraction is responsible for maintaining, removing, and replacing signs with their contractor.