



Adopt-a-Highway programs are active in 48 States, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, and 6 Canadian Provinces (Oklahoma Department of Transportation 1999).

A 1999 National Survey by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation found that

- 962,502 volunteers are picking up litter in 48 states (which represents a 12.5% drop from 1.1 million volunteers reported in 1997);
- 88,919 groups belong to AAH in 48 states (4.1% more than reported in 1997);
- annual cost of picking up roadside litter totaled \$106,833,568 for the 33 reporting states which is 6.3% (or \$7.2 million) less than was reported in 1997.

Texas, Wyoming, Ohio, Illinois and Florida require volunteers groups to adopt at least a 2 mile stretch of road, pick-up litter at least 4 times a year, and shall agree to a two-year commitment to the program (Texas Department of Transportation, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Transportation, and Florida Department of Transportation). In Maine, municipalities are responsible for implementing programs, and are liable for all aspects of the program. Municipalities may require minimal adoption of at least 1 mile for 2 years, and no interstate or controlled access roadways are eligible for adoption (Maine Department of Transportation).

Blue and white are the required colors for 18 state's signs. The next most popular required colors for AAH signs are green and white, used in 7 states. Logos on AAH signs are allowed in 3 states, CA, MS, WA and in New York City. The dimensions of signs advertising AAH sponsors vary widely from state to state (Oklahoma Department of Transportation 1999), some examples include

CO= 3' x 1.5'

CT= 1.5' x 2.5'

MA= 3' x 3'

NH= 2.5' x 2.5'

NY= 2.5' x 5'

WY= 8' x 5' (Interstate sign) 4' x 3'  
(Primary & Secondary road signs)

Each state sets independent safety guidelines for their volunteers including an age requirement for participation. General safety rules include carpooling to the work site, working during daylight hours only in good weather and clear visibility, and avoiding peak travel times (Maine Department of

Transportation, Florida Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, and Arizona Department of Transportation).

Forty states' Departments of Transportation supply volunteers with safety training, orange safety vests, temporary roadwork warning signs and plastic trash

Arizona Department of Transportation, <http://www.dot.state.az.us/news/school/adopt/adopt.htm>

De Leon, Lionel. "Gays Prevented from Adopting a Highway." Los Angeles Times. Aug. 19, 2001.  
Email correspondence with Mike Clarke from the New York Department of Transportation, April 17, 2002.

Florida Department of Transportation, <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/moreDOT/adopt.htm>

Illinois Department of Transportation, <http://dot.state.il.us/aah.html>

Maine Department of Transportation, <http://www.state.me.us/mdot/planning/csd/quicks.htm>

North Carolina Department of Transportation,  
[http://www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/operations/dp\\_chief\\_eng/roadside/Beautification/highway/questions.html#B](http://www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/Beautification/highway/questions.html#B)

Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Beautification Office. 1999. *1999 Adopt-a-Highway Survey, United States and International*. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma City, OK.

Ohio Department of Transportation, <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/dist11/terms.htm> Department of Transportation, <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/di>