Sign Inventory Storage Cabinets

Project Number 2013-01

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Problem Olmsted County lacked the ability to efficiently store and maintain its sign inventory. Signs were stacked and stored in locations that were unorganized and not easily accessible, such as on metal racks. Due to the high cost of signs that have either diamond grade or high-intensity sheeting, a more efficient means of storing, organizing, and maintaining the inventory was needed to prevent damage.

Solution The county developed a storage cabinet system that was durable and could handle signs being repeatedly slid in and out of the storage compartment. The county constructed individual plywood cabinet dividers that fit inside metal racks. The dividers were built at several sizes to vertically store the county's multiple sizes and shapes of signs. The system allows for easy access and protects the sign sheeting from damage.

Procedure Multiple sizes of cabinets were built within the metal racks using three-quarter-inch plywood, with durability in mind. A one-quarter-inch piece of hard board was cut for the bottom of each cabinet opening to easily slide signs in and out of storage. This helps to eliminate wear on the plywood dividers and is easily replaceable once these pieces excessively wear. Multiple levels of metal racks were erected to store the individual wood cabinets, which gives the county the ability to store more cabinet units.

Results Since the cabinet units have been erected and installed, sign inventory has become much more efficient. The county uses magnetic labels attached to the metal racks to identify sign types, making it quick and easy for staff to locate each sign to be loaded in the sign truck for installation. The system also helps the county to keep track of its sign inventory by making it simple to check and evaluate the condition of its stock inventory annually. In addition, the clean, neat, organized look of the cabinet shelving makes the sign shop a great environment in which to work.

Approximate Cost $7,963

OPERA Funding $6,500

Implementation Olmsted County has added two more units in its cold storage building to help with the storage, organization, and maintenance of its inventory for temporary work-zone signage. In addition, the county has partnered with MnDOT District 6 to install multiple units for sign storage in its new facility.

Status Complete

View the complete project report online at www.mnltap.umn.edu/opera.

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