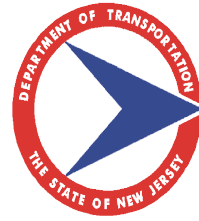


New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, PO Box 600, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600



Baseline Document Change Announcement

Design Exception Manual

BDC11T-01

January 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Release of the Design Exception Manual, 2012

The Design Exception Manual, 2012 is hereby released. Major changes to the 2004 Edition of the Design Exception Manual are as follows:

1. Flowchart outlining the Design Exception (DE) process added to the Manual.
2. Requirement included in DE process to include appropriate plan sheets/sketches to aid in the review of the DE request.
3. Emphasis placed on the requirement to send all Design Exceptions on Interstates to the FHWA for review and approval regardless of the project's funding source.
4. Requirement included indicating coordination required with the Department of Defense for projects containing substandard vertical clearance on an Interstate.
5. Verbiage included requiring prior approval for any construction changes that affect approved design exceptions or that create the need for new ones.
6. Emphasis placed on what data designers should request for the Crash Analysis and submit with the DE request.
7. The designer is required to provide a more detailed analysis of the crashes if the number of crashes exceeds the statewide average. A requirement was included to require the designer to consider providing the more detailed analysis when the number of crashes approaches the statewide average as well. Engineering judgment will be used to determine when this is necessary.
8. Clarification added to further define what is/is not considered a preventive maintenance project.
9. New preventive maintenance activities listed consistent with guidance contained in FHWA's 9/12/2005 memorandum on Pavement Preservation Definitions.
10. Pavement and bridge resurfacing criteria developed for a project to be considered as a preventive maintenance project.
11. Additional guidance provided on how to assess the impacts for projects with multiple controlling substandard design elements (CSDEs) or CSDEs at multiple locations.
12. Eliminated the DE Manual's Appendix Standard Design Reference Tables and left the references to NJDOT Design Manuals and AASHTO.
13. Added additional formula wording with the graph in Appendix A and added instruction about graphically checking vertical curves for stopping sight distance.

This BDC Announcement hereby supersedes BDC04T-10 (dated September 15, 2004).

Implementation Code R (ROUTINE)

Changes must be implemented in all applicable Department projects scheduled for Final Design Submission at least one month after the date of the BDC announcement. This will allow designers to make necessary plan, specifications, and estimate/proposal changes without requiring the need for an addenda or postponement of advertisement or receipt of bids.

Recommended By:

Original signed by

Walter McGrosky
Director,
Capital Program Support

Approved By:

Original signed by

Richard T. Hammer
Assistant Commissioner,
Capital Program Management

WM: KS:GL

Attachments: Design Exception Manual 2012