



TXDOT'S ROADWAY DESIGN MANUAL UPDATE

Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum
August 22, 2019



Roadway Design Manual (RDM) Update Purpose

- Recent ASSHTO Green Book Update (7th Edition)
- A backlog of needed updates to take care of
- Opportunity to look at some reorganization opportunities
- Improve guidance and direction for bicycle accommodation and pedestrian accommodation
- Include increased emphasis on safety considerations and analysis



RDM Update History

- 2004
 - RDM brought in line with (or references to) the Access Management Manual.
 - “Significant changes” to the Urban Streets – Speed Change Lanes section.
 - Location of aux lanes relative to vertical curves.
 - More “median opening” and “speed change lanes” criteria.
 - Conversion of 2-way to 1-way frontage roads.
- 2005
 - Appendix C (driveway design) added, including pedestrian considerations and guidelines
- 2006
 - Add Section 6 of Chapter 4 “Super 2 Highways”
 - Add Chapter 8, “Mobility Corridor (5R) Design Criteria” (85 to 100mph speeds)
- 2010
 - Design exceptions delegated to the Districts.
 - Expanded guidance of Super 2 highways.
 - Application of 2R guidelines for non-NHS roads w/ ADT < 2500 per lane.

Roadway Design Manual



Revised April 2018

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RDM Update History

- 2013
 - Make “lateral offset” a design exception.
 - Bring the RDM, Chapter 2 (Basic Criteria) in line with 2011 Green Book.
 - Metric version “no longer shown but may be viewed in PDF format by accessing link”.
 - Sight distance clarifications (Chapter 2, various sections)
 - Horizontal curves and superelevation updates.
 - Minor vertical curve statements.
 - “Cross-Sectional Elements” updated to ADA PROWAG and TAS standards.
 - Included / clarified accommodations for bikes and sidewalks for cross sectional elements.
 - Drainage – Minor edits.
- 2014
 - Appendices A & C revisions for 31” MBGF and median barrier guidance + minor edits
- 2018
 - Addition of THFN (Tx Hwy Freight Network) criteria.

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RDM Update Process Initiation

- Developed initial broad, but detailed list of needs for scope development
- Initiated coordination for consultant selection December 2018
- RFQ Posted March 2019
- Consultant selected May 2019
- Negotiations effectively complete August 2019
- Contract kick-off expected late September 2019

The image shows a large, complex spreadsheet or data table, likely representing project data or financials. The table is mostly orange and blue, with some yellow and red highlights. It appears to be a detailed project schedule or resource allocation chart. The table has many columns and rows, with some cells containing text and others containing numbers or symbols. The overall layout is dense and organized, typical of a professional project management tool.

Manual Update Approach

- Staggered approach covering multiple phases over a two-year period
- Scope focused on RDM, but also includes other manuals
 - Project Development Process Manual (PDP)
 - PS&E Processing Manual
 - Access Management Manual
 - Landscape and Aesthetics Design Manual
 - Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis (new)
- Phased Approach
 - Multiple Tiers of RDM Updates
 - Other Manual Updates
 - High Level Training Development on Updates

What guidance improvements are needed?

- Status for how to build various elements?
- Status of identifying what projects should address pedestrian elements?
- Status of understanding what to do when, across range of scenarios?
- Status of planning adequate solutions to support project scoping?
- Status of having the right message, delivered to the right people, at the right frequency?
- Discussing possible interim document (not just another memo)
 - Intended to drive the ultimate RDM update
 - Can make available sooner than later
 - Post for consistent availability and understanding
 - Support with informational webinars for improved awareness and understanding
 - Some information applicable to the RDM, with other applicable to the PDP

Avoiding the Ultimate Trade-off



Not planning and providing adequately for pedestrians

Questions?

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