

# VDOT GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT

# Road Design Manual



**Location and Design Division**

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## PREFACE

### **PURPOSE**

This manual has been prepared to promote uniformity in design procedures for all designers and technicians involved in the development of plans for Virginia's highways. It is intended to serve as an informational and procedural guide and to be used in conjunction with specifications, standards, policy directives (State and Federal) and design policy manuals published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). It is neither a textbook nor a substitute for engineering knowledge, experience or judgment. Tables and figures are included as aids in the solution of office and field problems.

### **MEANINGS OF "SHALL" OR "WILL", "SHOULD" AND "MAY".**

To clarify the meanings intended in this manual by the use of these words, the following definitions apply:

- SHALL or WILL  
A mandatory condition. When certain design criteria is described in a procedure or design of a street or highway, it is mandatory that this condition be met.
  
- SHOULD  
An advisory condition. Where the word "should" is used, it is considered to be advisable usage, recommended but not mandatory.
  
- MAY  
A permissive condition. Design or application is optional.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ROAD DESIGN MANUAL**

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