SECTION C-7 HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CURVE FORMULAS

SPIRAL CURVES

The use of spiral transitions for compound and reverse curves should be avoided. However, the engineer does have latitude in the use of spiral transitions if the geometrics are warranted.*

The spiral to be used is known as the Talbot Transition Spiral and has the following characteristics:

1. - The radius of the spiral at any point is inversely proportional to its length. The radius at the TS (beginning of the spiral) is infinite and at the SC (end of the spiral) is equal to the radius of the circular curve R.

   R radius of the circular curve
   r radius at the distance L_x from TS
   LS length of spiral

   $R \div r = L_x \div LS$

2. - The central angle of a spiral curve is exactly 1/2 of a circular curve with the same radius and length.

   DE = central angle of spiral

   $DE = (28.6479 \times LS) \div R$

3. - Spiral angles are directly proportional to the squares of their lengths from the TS.

   Δ_L central angle for spiral for a length

   L_x from TS

   $\Delta_L = (L_x \div LS)^2 \times DE$

Formulas for computing spiral curve information is shown on the following two pages.

* Rev. 1/13