

## DESIGN WAIVERS

**This Design Waiver Policy is applicable to VDOT owned and maintained roadways only.**

Design Waivers are required when deviations from VDOT's design criteria occur. When design criteria meet or exceed AASHTO minimal design but fall short of VDOT's minimal design, a Design Waiver shall be required. Design Waivers will be applicable to all projects regardless of functional classification and funding and shall be documented and approved in accordance with the Design Waiver Request Form [LD-448](#). Please refer to [IIM-LD-227](#) for specific guidelines on obtaining a design waiver.

## DESIGN EXCEPTIONS

When plans are being prepared where, for any reason, one or more locations do not meet the AASHTO minimum design criteria (for example **shoulder width**, **horizontal curve radius\***), the location(s) and reason for difference(s) are to be noted on the title sheet. In order to alert everyone concerned, it will be necessary to identify these locations from the earliest stages of plan development. If changes are made during plan development that would alter the situation, then the title sheet must be corrected to reflect the new design. Design exceptions shall have the approval of the State Location and Design Engineer ([Form LD-440](#)) on both State and Federally funded projects. Please refer to [IIM-LD-227](#) for specific guideline on obtaining design exceptions.

The following methods will be used to show these exceptions:

- a. Plans with Functional Classification block:

EXCEPTIONS TO MAINLINE DESIGN SPEED			
Sta. To Sta.	Design Speed (mph)	Reasons for Exception	Approval Date
102 + 75 to 104 + 75		<b>Shoulder Width</b>	
621 + 00 to 624 + 50	60	<b>Horizontal Curve Radius</b>	

The data as indicated in the previous example is to be shown directly below the Functional Classification block.

- b. Plans Without [Functional Classification block](#):

Exceptions should be noted inside the title sheet border lines immediately following the design speed classification as follows:

V = 70 mph Exceptions: 102 + 75 - 104 + 75 (50 mph) <b>Shoulder Width</b> 621 + 00 - 624 + 00 (60 mph) <b>Horizontal Alignment</b>
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\* Rev. 7/16