SPIRAL CURVES

In order to approximate the path a vehicle makes when entering or leaving a circular horizontal curve, a spiral transition curve will be provided for horizontal curves with a radius less than or equal to 850 meters, except for interchange ramps and loops.

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 page.