

## **RIGHT OF WAY DESCRIPTION FURNISHED TO ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

The environmental planning process requires that the following right of way data must be furnished to the Environmental Quality Engineer upon request for an environmental document.

1. Both a right of way description and estimate of total right of way area will be included in all categorical exclusions and Environmental Assessment Documents.
2. The U.S. Farmland Protection Act requires that all federally funded highway projects be coordinated with the U.S. Soil Conservation Services to determine impact, if any, upon Farmlands. The process for coordination with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service requires that an estimate of the area of right of way for all projects be provided to the district conservationist.

"Right of Way", regarding the description and area, is defined as fee-simple right of way, temporary and permanent easements and donations of lands. Specify if the land required for "Right of Way" is developed residential, commercial, and/or industrial.

The following are example statements describing the right-of-way for an environmental assessment.

1. Less than 10 feet (3 m) strips on both sides of the roadway for the length of the project.
2. Less than 5 acres (2 ha) for widening and removal of several hairpin curves.
3. Approximately 2 acres (1 ha) of right of way and easements for constructing bridge and improving 1000 feet (300 m) of approaches.

There are other situations which will require right of way descriptions and area estimates other than the above examples.

The area can be just a rough approximation of the combined right of way, easements, etc., and should entail only a minimum amount of calculation. This area will be helpful to the FHWA in deciding whether more than minor amounts of right of way are involved.