

It is important to note that the Design Speed shown on the project title sheet may not be the same as the Design Speed of the individual geometric elements. Each curve on the project (horizontal and vertical) should show a Design Speed for that particular feature. Although these curves may present isolated instances where the physical roadway dictates the speed of vehicles, they shall not be the sole basis for determining the posted speed limit. It is more appropriate to address these locations by warning signs. It is only where the physical roadway features dictate the speed of the vehicles on extended sections, for a major portion of the roadway that they should be considered as a limiting factor in setting the speed limit. Such limitations in speed due to physical features will become apparent in the speed analysis conducted as part of the engineering study.*

For design criteria and instructions on signing roadways with a design speed < 25 mph, see the VDOT Road Design Manual, Appendix B(1), Tables 1 through 3 and AASHTO's "Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT \leq 400).

DESIGN WAIVERS

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 guideline on obtaining design waiver. **This Design Waiver Policy is applicable to VDOT owned and maintained roadways only.**

DESIGN EXCEPTIONS

If there are geometric values that are below AASHTO minimum guidelines, the Project Manager/ Design Engineer shall seek to obtain approval of these design exceptions from the State Location and Design Engineer (all projects) and FHWA (if applicable) no later than Public Hearing Stage. Please refer to [IIM-LD-227](#) for specific guideline on obtaining design exceptions.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The highway system in Virginia has been functionally classified as Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, Collector and Local Service. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) utilizes, as presented in the publication: *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, referred to as the AASHTO "Green Book", a similar functional classification system. The designations used are: Freeway, Arterial, Collector, and Local Roads and Streets. Relationships between these two classification systems have been generally developed.

Principal and Minor Arterial Highways provide direct service between cities and larger towns and are high speed, high volume facilities. Collector highways serve small towns directly, connecting them and local roads to the arterial system.

* Rev. 7/14