

B. Recommendations and requirements.

1. For compliance when minimum standards are involved, state that the design feature is required. Design features that exceed minimum standards but are required to resolve capacity or safety problems should be stated as required with an explanation.
2. For design features that exceed the minimum standards state that the design is recommended or, if appropriate, highly recommended.

### III. GUIDELINES FOR A TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

#### A. PURPOSE

A traffic impact study assesses the impact of a proposed development, zoning change, or special use approval on the transportation system. Its purposes are (1) to ensure that proposed developments or zoning changes do not adversely affect the transportation network, (2) to identify any traffic problems associated with access from the site to the existing transportation network, (3) to delineate solutions to potential problems, and (4) to present improvements to be incorporated into the proposed development.

The traffic impact study guidelines contained herein are subject to modification by VDOT and the county as necessary. They will be reviewed periodically and updated with state-of-the-art technical information. These guidelines have been developed in order to provide for consistent preparation of traffic impact studies. The guidelines will greatly enhance the efficiency of staff review and, at the same time, will provide the applicant with "accepted" technical procedures and methodologies. VDOT and the county will review each development application on a case-by-case basis and may make recommendations that differ from the guidelines.

#### B. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDIES

The primary responsibility for assessing the traffic impacts associated with a proposed development rests with the applicant, with the county and VDOT serving in a review capacity. This is consistent with the approach followed for other civil engineering aspects of zoning and subdivision applications. The county and VDOT should specify whether a traffic impact study is required, the extent of the study area, and any specific issues that should be addressed (i.e., safety, accidents, truck traffic). This determination should be made in the rezoning application or preliminary site plan stage.

If a traffic impact study is required, the applicant will be responsible for submitting a formal traffic impact report. The applicant will also be responsible for all data collection efforts required in preparing a traffic impact study, including current peak period turning movement counts. Current peak period turning movement counts is defined as those counts that have been collected within one year of the zoning or subdivision application.