

DESIGN BULLETIN #10/2003 (Superseded June 2005)

Guidelines for selection of Design Designations on Alberta Highways.

**June 2005 Update to Design Bulletin #10/2003:
Design Bulletin #27/2005 Supersedes Design Bulletin #10/2003**

http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/INFTRA_Content/docType233/Production/desbull.htm

Summary: The department has recently adopted a new highway classification system entitled the Alberta Service Classification System. The system categorizes all roadways previously known as primary and secondary highways into four groups based on function, traffic volume, traffic composition, continuity, national and regional importance and other factors. The provincial network includes all existing highways plus a number of additional routes that are designated to be constructed in the future. The Alberta Service Classification Map 2002 is currently under review and will be issued when the review is completed.

The department's current road sizing guidelines, which include guidelines for design designation selection on new construction, suggested minimum widths on existing paved roads and guidelines for twinning, are all based on a service classification system developed for Alberta highways in 1997. These guidelines are contained in Figures A-3.2i, A-3.2ii, A-9 and G-1.1 (see revised versions attached). As the new (2002) Service Classification system is being adopted, this is an opportune time to revisit and fine tune the road sizing guidelines.

In 1999, the department adopted a policy of constructing all roadways (subgrades) so that the original pavement width would be retained over a period of fifty years. Refer to Figures C-8.1c to C8.1g for pavement sideslope construction details for various widths and types of construction. In general, these typical details should be used on construction projects.

Due to this policy, it is appropriate to revisit the standard design designations so that the practice of additional overbuilding is eliminated. The proposed design designations for two lane undivided highways are simplified so that 8m, 9m, 10m, 11m, 12m and 13m widths may be chosen based on traffic volume and functional needs. The revised standard cross-sections are attached. The four lane and six lane divided highway cross-sections have not been changed. This is due to the generally higher traffic volumes that exist on divided highways.

Implementation

The new standards as shown in this Design Bulletin are to be implemented immediately as per the usual practice i.e. on projects, which have not yet been tendered. The design should be revised as shown here unless the cost or timing do not allow such a change to be made on the specific project. The decision to revise or not will be made at the discretion of the Project Sponsor. The new Figures are circulated as attachments to this Bulletin and will also be issued as part of the next update to the Design Guide. For all current projects, designers are to use the service classification as shown on the draft Alberta Service Classification Map 2002.

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Contact: Bill Kenny, Technical Standards Branch, Alberta Transportation. All inquiries on the Alberta Service Classification Map should be directed to Technical Standards Branch, Alberta Transportation (Attention: Peter Mah, fax (780) 422-2846).

Attachments:

1. Figures A-3.2i, A-3.2ii, A-9 and G-1.1 (road sizing charts).
2. Figures C-8.1c to C-8.1g (pavement sideslope construction details for various widths and types of construction).
3. Figures C-8.2a to C-8.2q (standard cross-section plans).

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