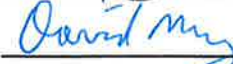


Nebraska Department of Roads

Roadway Design Division – Policy Letter

Policy Number: **DES 17-01**

Approval Date: 6-5-17 By:  Roadway Design Engineer

Approval Date: 6-12-2017 By:  FHWA – Nebraska

This policy affects Roadway Design Manual: Chapters; One: Design Standards

Priority Commercial System: Shoulder Width

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address shoulder width on New & Reconstructed and Resurfacing, Restoration and Rehabilitation (3R) projects on the Priority Commercial System (PCS). This policy does not apply to curbed sections.

Policy

For **New and Reconstructed projects** on the Priority Commercial System with an ADT of at least 400 VPD but no more than 3,999 VPD, the minimum design standards for shoulder width and paved shoulder width is 8 ft. total shoulder width (6 ft. paved). If this policy is not followed a decision document shall be prepared for Assistant Design Engineer (ADE) approval. Factors to consider are:

1. System continuity,
2. Crash history attributable to shoulder width or to vehicles parked on the shoulders,
3. High heavy-truck volumes (250 Heavy Trucks per day),
4. Consultation with the District office, including anecdotal history of problems caused by parking on shoulders,
5. Alternative route for Interstate traffic,
6. Environmental impacts, and
7. Cost.

For **3R projects** on the Priority Commercial System, the minimum shoulder width shall follow the minimum design standard.

Implementation

The following will be eliminated from the Roadway Design Manual Chapter One Section 5.D.1: *The non-expressway portion of this system is being constructed with two 12 ft. (3.6 m) driving lanes and 10 ft. (3 m) shoulders, 8 ft. (2.4 m) of which is to be paved. In addition to the system as established, any route which has a design year traffic volume (the volume at the initial year of construction plus 20 years) of 3,000 ADT or greater will be developed with 8 ft. (2.4 m) paved shoulders. Bridges are to be widened to shoulder width.*

Sent to: NDOR Roadway Design, NDOR "Distribution B", and selected consultants.