



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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JENNIFER COHAN
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: All users of the Standard Specifications and Details

FROM: Jim Pappas, P.E.,
Deputy Director Operations and Support

DATE: September 8, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Standard Specification and Details – General Overview

General Overview of Specification Reviews

The main effort to revise DelDOT's *Standard Construction Details* and *Standard Specifications* was to improve readability and ease of use while keeping consistency of the documents. Below is a brief summary of changes for both documents

Standard Details

The updates include major efforts to remove metric dimensions and provide revisions and edits that conform with the current methods of construction and Standard Specification updates made for 2020.

- **Section 1 - Barrier:** Bring guardrail and barrier to 2016 MASH compliance as accepted by the Department.
- **Section 2 - Curb & Gutter:** New curb details for roundabout and median guardrail; provide clarification on typical sections for curb types; address pedestrian connection details and notes.
- **Section 3 - Drainage:** Provide more detail for the round manholes and doghouse inlets; provide delineation for underdrain and footer support for RCP flared ends; remove the junction box without access and safety metal end sections.
- **Section 4 - Erosion:** Make consistent with DNREC details and remove details that provide manufacture installation.
- **Section 6 - Miscellaneous:** Revise the shared-use/sidewalk and bus stop pad details to show what is needed for those features and reference for pedestrian connections to Section 2; driveway transition grades have been revised; new detail for temporary pedestrian pathway.
- **Section 7- Pavement:** PCC slab length decreased to 15' and all PCC Joints are ¼" hot pour sealant without backer rod; revisions made to the cross-road patch and the pavement safety edge.

- **Section 8 – Traffic:** Conduit junction wells have been deleted without cast iron lids except Type 5 and 7; pole base grading is shown; removed the special pole base and sign foundation; provided new details for wiring installation, service pedestals and pedestrian pushbutton location.

Standard Specifications

Updates from the 2016 Standard Specification include the major effort to remove the passive voice and replace it with the active voice in the imperative mood. Passive sentences do not make it clear who performs the action in a sentence whereas the active voice in the imperative mood solves this problem by telling the contractor directly what to do. An imperative mood sentence begins with the active verb and the subject, with the contractor implied. This is not used when referring to the Department. This effort makes the specifications clearer and more concise because it eliminates wording but does not affect technical content.

Other major updates found in the 2020 Standard Specifications include:

- Removal or correction of ambiguities. If what was written was unclear or could be interpreted in more than one way, the provision was typically rewritten to avoid ambiguity.
- Breaking up long sections of text into multiple paragraphs or to turn long paragraphs into lists that are easier for the contractor and DeIDOT personnel to follow.
- Deletion of language if the contractor did not need to perform the work.
- Remove language covered by the General Conditions. An example of this is language telling the contractor to protect its work or to repair defective work at no cost to DeIDOT. The General Conditions address defective work.
- Organization improvements were made to make it easier for readers to find what they need as quickly as possible.

The implementation of the 2020 Standard Details and Standard Specifications will be as follows:

- Projects at initiation up to Semi-Final plan submission on/after November 1, 2020 will use the 2020 Standard Details and Standard Specifications beginning at their publication date.
- Projects at/beyond Semi-Final plan submission on October 31, 2020 will use the current 2016 Standard Specifications and 2018 Standard Details.

Please contact Danny Macchione at (302) 760-2306 or James Osborne at (302) 760-2221 if you have any questions.

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