

## **Livable Delaware Activity**

Activity/Policy/Program name: Road Design Manual Update

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Purpose: The purpose is to provide a set of rules and guidelines for constructing our roads, bikeways, sidewalks, and bus systems that are both safe and convenient while moving people and goods where they need to go. In addition, guidance is provided as to how to fit roads, bikeways, sidewalks, and bus systems into the community so that they are aesthetically pleasing and protective of the environment.

Enabling Laws: 17 Del. C. § 132 (General Authority)

Policies: There are no policy implements that are needed to complete the revisions to the Road Design Manual. There are, however, several Policy Implements that will be incorporated into this revision of the Road Design Manual. The following Policy Implements will be addressed: PI#C-07 English Standards; PI#D-01 Entrance Channelizations; PI#D-06 Bicycle Policy; PI# M-02 Tree Preservation Policy; PI#O-02 Sidewalk Policy; PI#O-03 DelDOT Public Involvement Policy. After these Policy Implements are incorporated into the Road Design Manual, a decision will need to be made regarding whether these Policy Implements can be eliminated or not.

History: The Road Design Manual needs to be updated periodically in order to keep in tune with current trends and new techniques in transportation. Current trends and technologies include context sensitive design, multi-modal facilities, and intelligent transportation management systems.

Current Situation: The Road Design Manual is currently being rewritten to revise design criteria and bring them in line with the 2001 AASHTO “A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets”. The changes to the manual will include the introduction of context sensitive design and the flexibility of design standards. It will also stress the importance of designing to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, transit facilities, and intelligent transportation management systems while protecting important farmlands and critical natural resources. In addition, these new guidelines will help to encourage redevelopment and improve the livability of existing communities and urban areas and guide new employment into underutilized commercial and industrial sites. Mobility will be promoted for people and goods through a balanced system of transportation options.

Revisions/Actions Needed: The revisions to this manual are in line with the goals and objectives of Livable Delaware and the state investment strategies.

Resources needed to create/revise: The Assistant Road Design Engineer has been assigned the task of overseeing the revisions to the “Road Design Manual.” A Professional Services Agreement has been executed to have the manual rewritten.

Process for creation/revision: The Consultant will rewrite the manual chapter by chapter. When a draft of a chapter is completed, a committee that has already been formed will circulate it for review. The rewrite will begin with the Introduction and Chapter 10, Miscellaneous Design. The focus of these 2 items is context sensitive design and multi-modal designs. As each chapter is completed they will be distributed to the book holders.

Schedule: The completion of the rewrite is expected to be by July 2002. Some chapters may or may not need to be further updated after that date.

Measures to guide progress: The Consultant has submitted a schedule for completing the tasks and he will submit monthly status updates. In addition, overall progress can be measured by a decrease in accident frequency, if people are pleased with the appearance of our projects, and if people agree that the transportation system will get them where they want to go.

Interactions or inter-relationships with other agencies or units of government: The primary outside influences that could affect the progress of the rewriting of the manual would be changes in Department policies. There are not any laws that will affect this activity.