



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DESIGN DIVISION**

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INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN NO. 26-01

Roadway Design Guidelines (PDN) and Supporting Documents

Effective April 16, 2026, the Roadway Design Guidelines (PDN), Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 10, have been revised and released for implementation. The updated chapters, associated design reference documents, and the ORD-OBD Blended Workspace, including the Blended Workspace Configuration Summary, are now available.

Roadway Design Guidelines - PDN

- Chapter 1 (General)
 - Section 1-104.00 (PDF PLAN SHEET SIZE)
 - Updated the paragraph to assign the Design Lead responsibility for assembly plans from all disciplines.
 - Section 1-105.00 (MAJOR MILESTONE PROJECT DELIVERABLES)
 - Updated file format from pdf to xlsx for Project Notebook listed on Table 1-1.
 - Added a paragraph at the end of the section emphasizing the requirement to include the Reports Folder in each Field Review Deliverable Package.
 - Sections 1-105.01 (LINE AND GRADE PACKAGE FIELD REVIEW SUBMITTAL), 1-105.02 (FUNCTIONAL DESIGN PLANS FIELD REVIEW SUBMITTAL PACKAGE), 1-105.06 (PLAN-IN-HAND FIELD REVIEW SUBMITTAL PACKAGE), and 1-105.07 (PS&E FIELD REVIEW SUBMITTAL PACKAGE)
 - Added a paragraph referring to the Quality Control Documents folder.
 - Updated Tables 1-2, 1-3, 1-7, and 1-9, and Figures 1-2, 1-3, 1-7, and 1-9 to include the Quality Control Document Folder and Reports Folder and changed the Project Notebook format from PDF to XLSM.
 - Section 1-105.03 (FUNCTIONAL DESIGN PLAN SUBMITTAL PACKAGE)
 - Updated Tables 1-4 and Figures 1-4 to reflect the change in Project Notebook format from PDF to XLSM.

- Section 1-105.04 (RIGHT-OF-WAY REVISION SUBMITTAL)
 - Updated section header by removing the word “PACKAGE”.
 - This section has been fully revised to add a new right-of-way revision submittal requirement and remove the portfolio package as a required submittal.
- Section 1-105.07 (PLAN-IN-HAND SUBMITTAL PACKAGE)
 - This section has been removed, and the chapter table of contents and section numbers have been updated to reflect this change.
- Section 1-105.08 (FINAL ROADWAY PS&E SUBMITTAL PACKAGE)
 - Updated Table 1-11 and Figure 1-10 to reflect the change of file format from PDF to XLSM for the Project Notebook.
- Section 1-105.09 (FINAL PS&E DOCUMENTS “COMPLETE PACKAGE”) and 1-105.10 (LETTING REVISION SUBMITTAL PACKAGE)
 - Removed PDF and XLSM thumbnails and replaced them with file extensions under the File Format column in Tables 1-12B and 1-13C for the report listing example.
- Section 1-200.00 (QUALITY ASSURANCE-QUALITY CONTROL)
 - Updated the section to include a direct reference to the TDOT Quality Manual.
- Section 1-202.06 (PLAN PHASE STAMPS)
 - Removed the PS&E PLANS phase stamp example from Figure 1-25.
- Section 1-203.00 (DEVELOPMENT OF TITLE SHEETS)
 - Updated Figure 1-27 to show the update title sheet cell with the railroad involvement block.
- Section 1-203.02 (SPECIAL NOTES)
 - Updated Figure 1-31 to show title sheet special notes reflecting the TDOT Standard Specifications date of April 1, 2026.
- Section 1-203.07 (PROJECT LOCATION AND BRIDGE ID NUMBER)
 - Updated Figure 1-36 to show the patterned county.
- Section 1-203.16 (RAILROAD INVOLVEMENT)
 - This is a new section with Figure 1-44A showing railroad involvement block.
- Chapter 2 (Geometric Design Criteria)
 - Subsection 2-101.01 (HORIZONTAL CURVES RADIUS AND SUPERELEVATION RATES)
 - Added a paragraph describing the superelevation diagram, including Figure 2-1A, which shows the profile with superelevation.

- Section 2-105.00 (DESIGN EXCEPTION REQUESTS)
 - Added a direct reference and link to the Project of Limited Scope following the sentence, Projects designated as Limited Scope do not require a design exception.
- Section 2-306.02 (GUARDRAIL END TERMINAL)
 - Revised the first sentence of the second paragraph to state “posted speeds equal to or greater than 45 mph” instead of “posted speeds greater than 45 mph” in reference to the Type 38 guardrail end terminal.
- Section 2-1501.00 (DRIVEWAY TYPICAL SECTION AND DESIGN CRITERIA)
 - The roadway edge section reference was corrected from 5-201.04 to 2-1501.04 on the driveway typical section, Figure 2-37.
- Chapter 5 (Footprint Established)
 - Section 5-403.00 (SUBMITTAL FOR “UTILITIES ONLY”)
 - The terminology has been updated from “Functional Plans (Utilities Only)” to “Functional Design Plans (Utilities Only)”.
 - Section 5-404.00 (SUBMITTALS OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPRAISALS AND ACQUISITION)
 - The terminology has been updated from “Functional Design” to “Functional Design Plans” in the second paragraph.
- Chapter 8 (Item Number)
 - Section 8-210.00 (PERMANENT STORMWATER CONTROL)
 - Added the following items.
 - ➡ 210-01.50 (SCM – PERIMETER SAND FILTER)
 - ➡ 210-01.60 (SCM – HYDRODYNAMIC SEPARATOR)
 - Section 8-307.00 (COMPUTATIONS FOR BITUMINOUS PLANT MIX BASE (HOT MIX))
 - Added item 307-03.12 (PG 76-22 BASE MIXES (GRADING CM))
 - Section 8-740.00 (GEOSYNTHETICS)
 - Added the following items.
 - ➡ 740-07.11 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 1)
 - ➡ 740-07.12 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 2)
 - ➡ 740-07.13 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 3)
 - ➡ 740-07.14 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 4)
- Chapter 9 (General and Special Notes)
 - Section 9-175.00 (LIGHTING)
 - Updated the reference date for the *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction* in Note (1) from January 1, 2021, to April 1, 2026.
 - Updated note (7) to remove the reference to the *First Edition (2015) of the LRFD* and to reflect the revised Supplemental Specifications, Subsection 916.01, dated 12-29-25.

- Chapter 10 (Index and Standard Drawings)
 - Subsection 10-100.02 (STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND LEGENDS)
 - Standard Drawing RD-L-1 has been revised.

 - Subsection 10-101.02 (RD18 ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTIONS AND DESIGN CRITERIA)
 - The following standard drawings have been revised.
 - RD18-TS-1 (RURAL LOCAL ROADS (LOW VOLUME))
 - RD18-TS-2 (URBAN LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS)
 - RD18-TS-2A (RURAL LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS)
 - RD18-TS-3 (URBAN MINOR COLLECTOR (2-3 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-3A (RURAL MINOR COLLECTOR (2-LANE))
 - RD18-TS-4 (URBAN MAJOR COLLECTOR FLUSH MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-4A (URBAN MAJOR COLLECTOR RAISED MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-4B (URBAN MAJOR COLLECTOR DEPRESSED MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-4D (RURAL MAJOR COLLECTOR DEPRESSED MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-5 (URBAN MINOR ARTERIAL (2-3 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-5A (RURAL MINOR ARTERIAL (2-3 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-6 (URBAN MAJOR ARTERIAL FLUSH MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-6A (URBAN MAJOR ARTERIAL RAISED MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))
 - RD18-TS-6B (URBAN MAJOR ARTERIAL DEPRESSED MEDIAN (4-6 LANE))

 - Subsection 10-102.04 (SAFETY CROSS DRAIN ENDWALLS)
 - The following standard drawings have been revised.
 - D-SEW-1A (TYPE "SAFETY" SIDE DRAIN ENDWALL WITH STEEL PIPE GRATE, FOR 15" THRU 48" PIPES, 6:1 SLOPE)
 - D-SEW-12D (TYPE "SAFETY" SIDE DRAIN ENDWALL WITH STEEL PIPE GRATE, FOR 18" PIPES, 12:1 SLOPE)

 - Subsection 10-104.01 (CATCH BASINS)
 - The following standard drawings have been revised.
 - D-CB-43R (STANDARD PRECAST CIRCULAR NO. 43R CATCH BASIN)
 - D-RS-3 (MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS FOR ROUND STRUCTURES)

 - Subsection 10-105.01 (VEGETATED FILTER STRIP, SWALE, BIO-SWALE, PERIMETER SAND FILTER, AND HYDRODYNAMIC SEPARATOR)
 - Updated subsection header.
 - Added the following new standard drawings.
 - D-SCM-1A (SCM VEGETATED FILTER STRIP)
 - D-SCM-5 (SCM PERIMETER SAND FILTER)
 - D-SCM-6 (SCM HYDRODYNAMIC SEPARATOR)

- Subsection 10-108.01 (CLEAR ZONE AND SAFETY PLANS)
 - Corrected description for the following standard drawing.
 - ☞ S-PL-1 (SAFETY PLAN FOR BARRIER LENGTH OF NEED)
- Section 10-201.00 (SIGNALS)
 - This section has been updated to reflect the new and revised Standard Traffic Design Drawings listed in Traffic Memorandum No. 2511, released on 12/28/2025.
- Section 10-203.00 (RAILROAD CROSSING)
 - This section has been updated to reflect the new and voided Standard Traffic Design Drawings listed in Traffic Memorandum No. 2510, released on 12/10/2025.

Design Reference Documents

- 2nd Sheet Documents
 - General Notes (V8i & Word)
 - Updated the reference date for the *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction* in Note (1) under Section 9-175.00, Lighting, from January 1, 2021, to April 1, 2026.
 - Updated note (7) under Section 9-175.00, Lighting, to remove the reference to the *First Edition (2015) of the LRFD* and to reflect the revised Supplemental Specifications, Subsection 916.01, dated 12-29-25
 - Index and Standard Roadway Drawings & Standard Roadway Drawings (V8i & Word)
 - The files were updated to reflect the revisions made in RDG Chapter 10.
 - Standard Traffic Design Drawings (V8i & Word)
 - Updated to reflect new, revised, and voided Standard Traffic Design Drawings per Traffic Memoranda Nos. 2510 (12/10/2025) and 2511 (12/23/25)
 - Items.dat
 - Updated to include the following seven new pay items.
 - ☞ 210-01.50 (SCM – PERIMETER SAND FILTER)
 - ☞ 210-01.60 (SCM – HYDRODYNAMIC SEPARATOR)
 - ☞ 307-03.12 (PG 76-22 BASE MIXES (GRADING CM))
 - ☞ 740-07.11 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 1)
 - ☞ 740-07.12 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 2)
 - ☞ 740-07.13 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 3)
 - ☞ 740-07.14 (UNIAXIAL GEOGRID REINFORCEMENT TYPE 4)
- Submittal Template
 - PS&E Revision
 - The Preconstruction RTE was added to the email CC list (shown in blue text) to align with the information in the RDG.

- R.O.W. Revision
 - This template has been updated to reflect the revised right-of-way revision submittal requirement outlined in RDG Chapter 1, Section 1-105.04.
- Distribution List
 - Updated all references from Engineering Support Division to Design Division.
 - Removed the Print Shop and associated email address.
 - Replaced the TDOT Quality Assurance email address in the QA/QC section with regional design quality team email addresses.
- Design Checklists
 - Line and Grade Checklist
 - ➡ Changed terminology from “shaded” to “patterned” on the checklist item “County or Counties patterned on the state map” under 1. TITLE SHEET
 - ➡ Added the checklist item “Railroad Involvement toggle, Yes or No” under 1. TITLE SHEET.
 - Functional Design Plans and Plan-in-Hand Checklists
 - ➡ Updated terminology related to Functional Design, Functional Design Field Review, and Functional Design Plans to ensure consistency with the Roadway Design Guidelines.
 - ➡ Added the checklist item “Railroad Involvement toggle, Yes or No” under 1. TITLE SHEET.
 - ➡ Changed terminology from “shaded” to “patterned” on the checklist item “County or Counties patterned on the state map” under 1. TITLE SHEET
 - ➡ Removed the checklist item “Proposed construction easements for new driveway areas outside of Proposed Right-of-Way with stations/offsets should be shown” from 4A-10A. RIGHT-OF-WAY DETAILS.
- Special Provision Order Sheet
 - Formatted project information block.
- R.O.W. Process Flowchart
 - Updated to version 1.1

Standard Design CADD Files and Supporting Documents

- MicroStation CADD files
 - The following files were updated to reflect the TDOT Standard Specifications date of April 1, 2026, as shown on the updated title sheet, including a new railroad involvement cell block. Plan phase stamps were also updated to align with those available in ORD, including files outlined under 2nd Sheet Documents and the R.O.W Exhibits Template.
[Cell.zip](#), [Seed.zip](#) & [VBA.zip](#)

- OpenRoads Designer (ORD)
 - Updated workspace; see update summary for detailed information.
[TDOT ORD-OBM 2023 Blended Workspace-01.30.26.zip](#)
[TDOT ORD-OBM 2023 Blended Workspace Configuration Update Summary-01-30-26.xlsx](#)

NOTE: A new version of the *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction* will be released by HQ Construction on April 1, 2026, and will be effective for the May letting.

For any questions about the PDN process, contact TDOT Program Delivery.


For any questions about the RDG, contact TDOT Production Support at TDOT.EngineeringProductionSupport@tn.gov.

Revised Links:

[Roadway Design Guidelines-PDN and Reference Documents](#)
[2nd Sheets Documents](#)
[Archived MicroStation SS2-GEOPAK](#)
[ORD Resources](#)

The following Instructional Bulletins are voided with the release of this IB due to information being incorporated into the Roadway Design Guidelines - PDN.

2023: 23-12 | **2024:** 24-03, 24-04, 24-05, 24-06, 24-07, 24-08, 24-09 & 24-10



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January 30, 2026