**Design Waiver Request Form**

**TO**: Choose One

**FROM:** Choose One

**DATE:** **Click here to enter a date.**

This form is to be used on projects requesting a Design Waiver to non-controlling elements of design on any roadway project.

**Design Waiver:**

For non-controlling element deviations, a Design Waiver Request must be completed. These requests do not require FHWA’s approval; the Roadway Design Division Director provides final approval. These requests include, but are not limited to, clear zone width, passing sight distance, vertical curves, and multimodal features.

**DOCUMENTATION**

**Design Waivers to non-controlling criteria**

A design ***waiver*** is a variance based on non-controlling criteria. All requests shall be documented on this form. Plan sheets, location map, and supplemental information (i.e. google maps) must be enclosed for a timely review by the Department. All design waivers must be justified based on the objective and context demonstrating compliance with accepted transportation engineering principles and reasons for the decisions. The proposed variation shall not diminish the existing operation and safety of the facility. Historical in-service performance or a traffic engineering study (on site or simulation) may be required.

**Waivers to Non-Controlling Criteria typically require futher evaluation of the design elements to support the request such as,**

* Curent design criteria that could not be met.
* Existing roadway characteristics.
* Alternatives considered.
* Comparison of the safety and operational performance of the roadway and other impacts such as right-of-way, community, environmental, cost, and usability by all modes of transportation.
* Proposed mitigation measures.
* Compatibility with adjacent sections of roadway.

Additional guidance can be found in the Highway Capacity Manual, Highway Safety Manual, Performance Based Practical Design, and Flexibility in Design. Design Waiver Requests located within the city limits require a letter from the local agency approving the request.

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| **PROJECT DATA** | |
| **Current Project Phase** | **Planning**   **Design**   **Construction**  **Scope change**  **(Evaluate NEPA impact)** |
| **County/ City** |  |
| **PIN** |  |
| **Federal Project No.** |  |
| **State Project No.** |  |
| **Project Limits** |  |
| **Local Program Project**  **State Let**  **Local Let** | Yes No  If yes, then  Yes No  Yes No |
| **Project Type** | New Alignment  Reconstruction  Resurfacing  Road Diet/Road Reconfiguration  (Note: Road Diet Evaluation form may be required)  Maintenance  Road Safety Audit  Bridge Repair  Bridge Rehabilitation  Signilization  Other |
| **US Route/NHS** | Yes No |
| **State Route** | Yes No |
| **Appalachian Development Highway System** | Yes No |
| **FHWA PODI Project** | Yes No |
| **Project Scope** (Briefly describe the objective of project) |  |
| **Project Commitments** |  |

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| **ROADWAY GEOMETRIC DESIGN DATA** | |
| **Highway Functional Classification:**  **(See Green Book 2011 Section 1.3)** | Freeway ☐  Arterial☐  Collector ☐  Local Road/Street ☐ |
| **Rural or Urban Context** | Rural ☐  Rural Town (city limits) ☐  Suburban (initially designed as rural but currently in city limits) ☐  Urban (city limits) ☐  Urban Core (in the metropolitan government jurisdiction) ☐ |
| **Roadway Typical Section Standard Drawing:** |  |
| **Existing Design Speed:** |  |
| **Existing Posted Speed:** |  |
| **Proposed Design Speed:** |  |
| **Proposed Posted Speed:** |  |
| **Type of Terrain:** | Level  Rolling  Mountainous |
| **Traffic Data:** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | ADT (20XX): | D: \_ / \_ | |  | ADT (20XX): | T:      % | |  | DHV: |  | |
| **Access Control** | None Partial  Full |
| **Multimodal Design Elements Included in the scope of the Project** | Pedestrian  Pedestrian Signals  Curb Ramps  Shared-Use Paths  New sidewalks  Non-motorized Enhancement  Bicycle  (including bike route/lane, tract addition to existing  roadway facility) |
| **Bus Route** | Yes☐ No ☐ |

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| **GEOMETRIC DESIGN NON-CONTROLLING ELEMENT CRITERIA**  **All applicable non-controlling elements must be completed for**  **Design Waiver requests** | | |
|  | **Existing** | **Proposed** |
| Passing Sight Distance: |  |  |
| Crest/Sag Vertical Curve: |  |  |
| Design vehicle: |  |  |
| Clear Zone width: |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |

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| **MULTIMODAL FEATURES** | | | |
| Facility Type: Roadway  Pedestrian  Bicycle  Shared-Use | | | |
|  | **Existing** |  | **Proposed** |
| Curb Shape: |  |  |  |
| Curb Ramp: |  |  |  |
| Sidewalk: |  |  |  |
| Shared-use Path: |  |  |  |
| Mid-block Crossing: |  |  |  |
| RRFB or HAWK: |  |  |  |
| Bike Lane: |  |  |  |
| Bike Lane Buffer: |  |  |  |
| Bike Route: |  |  |  |
| Bike Lane at Intersection: |  |  |  |
| Cycle Track: |  |  |  |
| Transit Facility/Stop |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |

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| **CRASH HISTORY** | | | | | |
| Years Reviewed | Total Crashes |  | Fatal Crashes |  | Injury Crashes |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VMT | Crashes/VMT |  | FatalCrashes/VMT |  | Injury Crashes/VMT |
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| **TDOT DIRECTIVES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE waiver REQUEST** | | | |
|  | **YES** | **NO** | **N/A** |
| **SAFETY** |  |  |  |
| Crash history data has been reviewed and is enclosed. |  |  |  |
| All roadway and roadside safety mitigation measures have been considered and provided. |  |  |  |
| The proposed variance from the minimum roadway design standards does not adversely affect the safety of the facility. |  |  |  |
| The Highway Safety Manual was used to justify the Design Waiver. |  |  |  |
| **OPERATIONS** |  |  |  |
| The operation of the proposed typical cross-section is comparable with operation of the adjacent cross-sections. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design does not cause a reduction in capacity or adversely affect traffic flow of the facility. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design does not adversely affect long-term operations. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design does not impact the existing access control. |  |  |  |
| Travel demand management solutions have been evaluated. |  |  |  |
| **ROADWAY DESIGN** |  |  |  |
| It is not feasible to meet the minimum roadway design standards due to right-of-way restrictions, environmental impacts, etc. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design maintains the same level of service compared to the design based on minimum roadway design standards. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design results in a significant cost savings compared to the design based on minimum roadway design standards. |  |  |  |
| The proposed design can meet minimum roadway design standards in the future. |  |  |  |
| **ENVIRONMENTAL** | | | |
| Does the request affect environmental permit requirements? (TDEC/TVA/CORPs/TWRA, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Historical Section 106 |  |  |  |
| **WORK ZONE** | | | |
| Will the proposed variation affect the TMP? |  |  |  |

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| **GEOMETRIC DESIGN DATA**  **Controlling elements must be completed for all**  **Design Waiver Requests** |

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|  | **Proposed** | **N/A** |
| Design Speed: |  |  |
| Design Loading structural capacity: |  |  |
| Lane width: |  |  |
| Shoulder width (inside/outside): |  |  |
| Cross Slope: |  |  |
| Superelevation Rate: |  |  |
| Horizontal Curve Radius: |  |  |
| Stopping Sight Distance: |  |  |
| Maximum Grade: |  |  |
| Vertical Clearance: |  |  |
| Navigational Waterway: |  |  |
| Grade separation: |  |  |
| Railroad crossing: |  |  |

**DESCRIBE THE REASONING OF THE DESIGN WAIVER REQUEST:**

(Address project needs, with consideration of all transportation modes, community engagement, safety, and with consistency towards long term planning and vision.)

**JUSTIFICATION OF THE DESIGN WAIVER:**

(Provide an explanation of the requested design waiver and describe other nationally recognized guidance that is met and that the design is based upon. Attach documentation of the specific design guidance met.)

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| **DESIGN WAIVER REQUEST – JUSTIFIED BASED ON GUIDANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING:** | | | | | |
| Design Guidance Source | Design Guidance Met | | | | |
| YES | NO | N/A | Do Not Know | Source Reference if answered “Yes”  (page, section, drawing, etc.) |
| AASHTO Publication |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highway Safety Manual |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highway Capacity Manual |  |  |  |  |  |
| FHWA Publication |  |  |  |  |  |
| NCHRP Publication |  |  |  |  |  |
| TRB Publication |  |  |  |  |  |
| TDOT Design Guidelines |  |  |  |  |  |
| TDOT Standard Drawings |  |  |  |  |  |
| Guidance from other states |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |

**DESCRIBE THE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

(Provide an explanation of proposed mitigation measures to offset impact such as cost, ROW, environmental, multimodal, safety and operation, community and usability, or compatibility with adjacent section of the roadway)

**DESIGN WAIVER IS REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Choose an item. |  | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Regional Project Development Director** |  | **Date** |

**DESIGN WAIVER APPROVED BY:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Choose an item. |  | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Roadway Design Division Director or Designee** |  | **Date** |

Reviewer Comments Attached

Attachments