



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0348**

**INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN NO. 08-13**

**Regarding Intersection Sight Distance**

Effective immediately, for all new construction and reconstruction projects, designers should ensure that intersection sight distance is provided in addition to adequate stopping sight distance at all intersections, railroad crossings without train activated warning devices, and commercial drives. Design information and values for intersection sight distance at intersections and railroad crossings can be found in the 2001 "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (AASHTO Green Book), Chapter 9, Intersections.

Intersection sight distance should also be provided at all private drives and field entrances when feasible. In the event that intersection sight distance cannot be achieved the designer shall verify that stopping sight distance is provided. Intersection sight distance should always be provided for a left turn movement from the major road into a private drive or field entrance.

Designers should consider all features that could limit adequate sight distance including buildings, parked vehicles, highway structures, roadside hardware, hedges, trees, bushes, unmowed grass, tall crops, walls, fences, slopes, and the terrain itself. The determination of whether an object constitutes a sight obstruction should consider the horizontal and vertical alignment of both intersecting roadways, as well as the height and position of the object. In making this determination, it should be assumed that the driver's eye is 3.5 ft. above the roadway surface and that the object to be seen is 3.5 ft. above the surface of the intersecting road for passenger cars. For landscaping, the mature size of the item shall be used.

In areas of limited right-of-way acquisition such as a curb and gutter section, adequate right-of-way may need to be acquired to ensure that intersection sight distance can be achieved or maintained. In the event that it is not feasible to obtain minimum intersection sight distance or to acquire adequate right-of-way to ensure intersection sight distance can be maintained, the Design Manager will document the project file the reason and steps taken to mitigate. Intersection sight distance is not one of the thirteen controlling elements of design as detailed in Section 3-110.02 of the Design Guidelines; therefore, design exceptions should not be submitted.

Designers shall show sight lines for all intersections in the design CADD file. Sight lines shall only be shown on the present and proposed layout sheets when right-of-way is required for the purpose of establishing or maintaining intersection sight distance. Sight lines should also be shown for all intersections and drives on all landscaping plans.

Original signed by Jeff C. Jones  
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JCJ:MJA:mja