

PREFACE

The *South Carolina Roadway Design Manual* has been developed to provide uniform design practices for Department and consultant personnel preparing contract plans for Department projects. The designer should attempt to meet all criteria and practices presented in the *Manual*, while fulfilling the Department's operational, safety and context sensitive requirements. However, the *Manual* should not be considered a standard that must be met regardless of impacts. Designs will generally be made to values as high as are commensurate with roadway context. Values approaching the minimums herein should be used only where the use of higher values will result in unacceptable impacts on the economic, environmental, aesthetics, social and/or cultural resources of an area.

The *Manual* presents most of the information normally required in the design of a roadway project; however, it is impossible to address every situation that the designer will encounter. Therefore, designers must exercise good judgment on individual projects and, frequently, they must be innovative in their approach to roadway design. This may require, for example, additional research into highway literature.

A SCDOT task force under the direction of the Preconstruction Support Section developed the *SCDOT Roadway Design Manual* with assistance from the engineering consultant firm of Roy Jorgensen Associates, Inc., and their subconsultant, Michael Baker International.

ROADWAY DESIGN MANUAL

Revision Process

The *South Carolina Roadway Design Manual* is intended to provide current design policies and procedures for use in developing State highway projects. To ensure that the *Manual* remains up-to-date and appropriately reflects changes in SCDOT's needs and applicable requirements, the *Manual* contents will be updated on an ongoing basis.

SCDOT will be responsible for evaluating changes in highway design literature (e.g., the issuance of new research publications, revisions to Federal regulations) and will ensure that those changes are appropriately addressed through the issuance of revisions to the *Manual*. It is important that users of the *Manual* inform SCDOT of any inconsistencies, errors, need for clarification or new ideas to support the goal of providing the best and most up-to-date information practical. A user who desires that a revision be considered for incorporation in the *Manual* should contact the Preconstruction Support Section.

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