

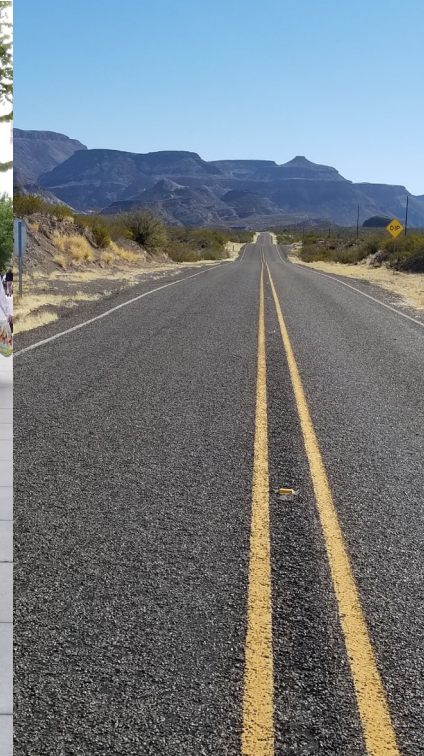


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Infrastructure

Design Standards for Highways Final Rule (23 CFR Part 625)

Elizabeth Hilton, P.E.
Pre-Construction Team
Office of Preconstruction,
Construction and Pavements

Except for the statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. The document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



Images FHWA

Regulatory History

- Design Standards NPRM published on Nov. 24, 2020 (85 FR 74934)
- Comments received from 18 individuals or organizations
- View comments at www.regulations.gov
- Docket Number: FHWA-2019-0030

Design Standards Regulation

23 CFR Part 625

§625.1 Purpose

§625.2 Policy

§625.3 Application

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specifications

§625.2 Policy

(b) Resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation (RRR) projects, ~~other than those on the Interstate system and other freeways,~~ shall be constructed in accordance with standards ~~which that~~ preserve and extend the service life of highways and enhance highway safety. Resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation work includes placement of additional surface material and/or other work necessary to return an existing roadway, including shoulders, bridges, the roadside, and appurtenances to a condition of structural or functional adequacy.

§625.3 Application

(a)(1) Applicable Standards

(1) Design and construction standards for new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing (except for maintenance resurfacing), restoration, or rehabilitation of a highway on the NHS ~~(other than a highway also on the Interstate System or other freeway)~~ shall be those approved by the Secretary in cooperation with the State ~~highway departments-DOTs~~. These standards ~~may take into account~~ **must consider**, in addition to the criteria described in §625.2(a), the following:

- (i) The constructed and natural environment of the area;
- (ii) The environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and preservation impacts of the activity; ~~and~~
- (iii) Cost savings by utilizing flexibility that exists in current design guidance and regulations; and**
- (iv) Access for other modes of transportation.**

§625.3 Application

(a)(3) Applicable Standards

New text:

(3) Interstate highways located in Alaska and Puerto Rico shall be designed in accordance with such geometric and construction standards as are adequate for current and probable future traffic demands and the needs of the locality of the highway.

§625.3 Application

(a)(4) Applicable Standards

New text:

(4) A State may allow a local jurisdiction to design a project using a roadway design publication that is different from the roadway design publication used by the State in which the local jurisdiction resides if –

(i) the local jurisdiction is a direct recipient of Federal funds for the project;

(ii) the roadway design publication is adopted by the local jurisdiction and recognized by FHWA;

(iii) the design complies with all applicable Federal laws and regulations; and

(iv) the project is located on a roadway that is owned by the local jurisdiction and is not part of the Interstate system.

§625.3 Application

(f) Exceptions

(1) *Project exception.*

(i) Approval within the delegated authority provided by FHWA Order M1100.1A may be given on a project basis to designs **on the NHS** which do not conform to the minimum criteria as set forth in the standards, policies, and standard specifications for:

(A) Experimental features on projects; and

(B) Projects where conditions warrant that exceptions be made.

(ii) The determination to approve a project design that does not conform to the minimum criteria is to be made only after due consideration is given to all project conditions such as maximum service and safety benefits for the dollar invested, compatibility with adjacent sections of roadway and the probable time before reconstruction of the section due to increased traffic demands or changed conditions.

(2) *Programmatic exception.* Approval within the delegated authority provided by FHWA Order M1100.1A may be given, on a programmatic basis, to use a more recent edition of any standard or specification incorporated by reference under §625.4(d).

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specs

(a) Roadway and appurtenances

(1) *Date removed from citation.*

(3) The geometric design standards for resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation (RRR) projects on NHS highways ~~other than freeways~~ shall be the procedures ~~and or~~ the ~~design or~~ design criteria established for individual projects, groups of projects, or all ~~non-freeway~~ RRR projects in a State, and as approved by the FHWA. ~~The other geometric design standards in this section do not apply to RRR projects on NHS highways other than freeways, except as adopted on an individual State basis.~~ The RRR design standards shall reflect the consideration of the traffic, safety, economic, physical, community, and environmental needs of the projects. **If a State does not adopt design procedures or criteria for RRR projects as approved by the FHWA, the standards listed in §625.4(a)(1) and (a)(2) shall apply.**

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specs

(b) Bridges and structures

(6) **AWS D1.4/D1.4M:2011** Structural Welding Code-Reinforcing Steel **(paragraph (d) of this section).**, ~~American Welding Society, 2011 (incorporated by reference; see §625.4(d)).~~

(7) **AASHTO** Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, (paragraph (d) of this section); or **AASHTO** LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals (paragraph (d) of this section).

(8) Navigational Clearances for Bridges, refer to 23 CFR part 650, subpart H.

(9) AWS D1.1/D1.1M Structural Welding Code - Steel (paragraph (d) of this section).

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specs

(c) Materials

(1) General Materials Requirements, refer to 23 CFR part 635, subpart D.

~~(2) Transportation Materials, AASHTO (paragraph (d) of this section).~~

~~(32)~~ Quality Assurance Procedures for Construction, refer to 23 CFR part 637, subpart B.

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specs

(d)(1) Documents incorporated by reference

(1) AASHTO publications (newly incorporated):

- *2018 A Policy on Geometric Design Highways and Streets (Green Book)*
- *2018 Interim Revisions - Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) Movable Highway Bridge Design Specifications*
- *2019 & 2020 Interim Revisions - Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires and Traffic Signals*
- *2019 & 2020 Interim Revisions - LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals.*

§625.4 Standards, policies, and standard specs

(d)(2) Documents incorporated by reference

(2) American Welding Society (AWS)
publications:

- **2016 second printing - AWS
D1.1/D1.1M:2015 *Structural Welding Code
- Steel***
- AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5: 2015-AMD1,
Bridge Welding Code, 7th Edition,
Amendment: December 12, 2016. (relocated
from (d)(1))
 - 2018 Interim Revision removed

Effective Date

The Final Rule takes effect on February 2, 2022.

Use of the updated standards, as incorporated by reference, will be required for all NHS projects authorized to proceed with design activities on or after February 2, 2023 unless an extension is granted for unique or extenuating circumstances.

Questions?

