Subject: ACTION: Mitigation Strategies for Design Exceptions

Date: May 1, 2014

/s/ Original Signed by Peter Stephanos

From: Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.
Associate Administrator for Infrastructure

To: Division Administrators

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a document entitled Mitigation Strategies for Design Exceptions in 2007. We have received questions about some of the language in this document, specifically language in Chapter 3, intended to clarify when design exceptions are required.


Mitigation Strategies for Design Exceptions provides valuable guidance about the impact design exceptions may have on the safety and operational performance of roadways, and potential mitigation strategies when the 13 controlling criteria are not met. However, it is a guide, and does not constitute a standard, nor does it set forth new policy regarding when design exceptions are required. Where this document conflicts with the adopted AASHTO policies, the AASHTO policies adopted through FHWA regulations govern. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact elizabeth.hilton@dot.gov or robert.mooney@dot.gov.

cc: Directors of Field Services
    Resource Center Directors
    Jeff Jones, Chair AASHTO Technical Committee on Geometric Design