



## Appendix A

### Information on the AASHTO 2018 Green Book

The 2018 Green Book introduces new definitions of project types—new construction, reconstruction, and projects on existing roads—and explains how design flexibility is provided for each project type as part of the project development process. The project type of “projects on existing roads,” with the additional caveat in the policy “that do not change the basic roadway type,” has traditionally been referred to as a resurfacing, restoration or rehabilitation (RRR) project. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials does not define the phrase “projects on existing roads that do not change the basic roadway type,” leaving room for FHWA to interpret this phrase in a manner consistent with Federal regulations.

The FHWA generally considers projects that change the general geometric character of a highway, such as widening to provide additional through motor vehicle lanes, widening to add a raised or depressed median where none currently exists, and projects that substantially modify horizontal or vertical alignments to be among those that result in a “change in the basic roadway type”. Road changes that are accomplished with no, or only minimal widening, such as lane reconfigurations (road diets), adding turn lanes, adding channelizing islands, or adding median curbs for access management are *not* considered a “change in the basic roadway type”.

In addition, the 2018 Green Book states that full-depth pavement replacement projects that retain existing geometrics are not considered a “change in the basic roadway type”. The FHWA finds this interpretation acceptable for the purposes of determining geometric design criteria when applying the 2018 Green Book, but not for other purposes, such as pavement design.

The FHWA publication *Mitigation Strategies for Design Exceptions*, 2007 [FHWA-SA-07-011] is now considered obsolete and has been archived on the FHWA website. While the guidance regarding mitigation for design exceptions is still useful, much of the policy information in this publication is outdated.

Archived