



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
800 BAY ROAD  
P.O. BOX 778  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

NICOLE MAJESKI  
SECRETARY

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Users of the DelDOT Road Design Manual

**FROM:** Shante Hastings, P.E. *SMAH*  
Deputy Secretary / Chief Engineer

**DATE:** September 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** 2022 DelDOT Road Design Manual – Implementation

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I am pleased to announce the completion and adoption of the updated 2022 DelDOT Road Design Manual (RDM) which supersedes all previous versions of the manual. The intent of this updated version of the RDM is to adopt the *AASHTO 2018 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, and other industry recognized resource documents, to provide the design controls, criteria, and elements to be used on DelDOT transportation projects.

Certain DelDOT specific design criteria and guidance are presented in this updated version of the RDM. This version specifies whether a user should refer to other resource documents or utilize the specific DelDOT design criteria and guidance for application on DelDOT transportation projects. This version also eliminates most references to DelDOT process related material and guidance that appeared previously, resulting in a much shorter version than the previous RDM.

The previous version of the RDM has been archived and is available on the DelDOT Road Design Manual Website. It is intended that the archived RDM, in conjunction with the DelDOT Project Development Manual, the DelDOT RDM website, the DelDOT Design Resource Center, and DelDOT Design Guidance Memoranda be used as resources to provide guidance on many DelDOT design processes and practices. As industry design practices advance and new documents are published or adopted as industry best practice, these documents will be evaluated for inclusion as applicable design controls, criteria, and elements for DelDOT transportation projects and the RDM will be revised accordingly.

Upon completion of the updated RDM, it was determined that an update to the process of documenting design controls, criteria, and elements, and requesting design exceptions was required. To that end, in conjunction with the RDM update, the Design Control Checklist, the Design Criteria Form, and the Design Exception Request Form have been updated and are available on the RDM Website. Additionally, a process document was drafted to provide guidance for properly documenting design controls and criteria, and properly requesting design exceptions.

Implementation of the design controls, criteria, and elements in the updated RDM will depend on a project's status and schedule. Effective October 1, 2022, the 2022 version of the DelDOT RDM shall be adopted for use on DelDOT projects prior to the Survey Plan stage. However, all projects that have yet to advance to the Semi-Final Plan stage should be evaluated to determine if there is enough flexibility in the project's design to implement the design controls, criteria, and elements contained in the updated RDM. This evaluation should be conducted by the project team and presented to the appropriate section Chief for concurrence.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing the updated DelDOT Road Design Manual. If there are any questions on the manual's content or proposed implementation, please contact John Caruano at [John.caruano@delaware.gov](mailto:John.caruano@delaware.gov).

SH:jcb