DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

REFERRED TO

_____ REFERRED FOR ACTION
_____ ANSWER FOR MY SIGNATURE
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_____ FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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_____ PLEASE ADVISE ME

BY _____ DATE _____
BY _____ DATE _____
BY _____ DATE _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Chad Winchester, P.E.
Chief Engineer

FROM: Mr. Robert M. Isemann, P. E. RI
Road Design Engineer Administrator

Mr. Mark Bucci, P.E. MB
Bridge Design Engineer Administrator

SUBJECT: Request to Supplement the Minimum Design Guidelines

DATE: March 27, 2026

The *AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* (2018) emphasizes the need for more flexible and performance-based geometric design policies to effectively and efficiently meet the demands of modern transportation infrastructure. While the *LADOTD Minimum Design Guidelines* (2017) do offer some flexibility, they do not allow designers to fully implement performance-based design without design exceptions in many instances.

To address this issue, we propose adopting the *AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Low-Volume Roads* (2019) as a formal supplement to the *LADOTD Minimum Design Guidelines*. This guide, updated in its second edition, provides specific geometric design guidance for low-volume local and minor collector roads with a design average daily traffic (ADT) of 2,000 vehicles per day or less. The guidelines are tailored to new construction projects as well as projects on existing roadways, which outlines a context sensitive and performance-based design approach for low-volume roadways.

Upon your approval, the *AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Low-Volume Roads* will be adopted and may be applied to all urban local, rural local, and minor collector roads with a design ADT of 2,000 vehicles per day or less, provided no site-specific crash patterns are present. Local and minor collector roadways with a design ADT greater than 2,000 vehicles per day, as well as all other roadway types regardless of ADT, will continue to follow the LADOTD Minimum Design Guidelines, as applicable.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	DATE 3/27/26
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	DATE
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APPROVED	DATE 3/31/26