

2013 Q3 – PWD Proposed Rule Changes

PROPOSED VERSION for 3rd Quarter 2013 Posting

Transportation Criteria Manual – Waiver from TCM Requirements

Earliest Possible Adoption: August 4, 2013

PREFACE

The City of Austin's Development Criteria Manuals (DCMs) were promulgated to administer and implement the City's Land Development Code in providing concise and comprehensive criteria for proper planning, design and coordination of all facilities applicable within the City of Austin and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

The guidelines and criteria presented in the Transportation Criteria Manual provide a foundation or starting point for rational engineering design decisions. The standards contained herein are based largely upon the guidelines and policies promulgated by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The Transportation Criteria Manual includes a classification system for the City of Austin, street characteristics and definitions of the various classes of streets, tabulation of design criteria and guidelines and schematic details of proposed street cross sections. The new design values are not intended to imply that current roadways are unsafe. The new design values represent recent design guidelines and established practices which should result in more satisfactory designs for new roadways as well as for modifications to current roadways.

Deviations *Any deviance from the* **in regard to** functional classifications, design criteria and recommendations as set forth in this document should be warranted based on sound engineering principles. **Deviations A Waiver** may be sought where warranted by social, economic or environmental impacts. *All requests for waivers* **deviations** from these guidelines, including *but not limited to,* horizontal alignments, vertical grades, pavement widths, corner radii, median breaks, driveway and sidewalk designs, *along with the rationale for the request,* must be approved by a Professional Engineer as designated by *submitted, for review and approval, of* the Director of Public Works *per City of Austin Code 25-6-294(A) and /or- the Director of the* Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department unless specific or joint authority is given to another stated designee **by this document or** by City Ordinance. These decisions shall be final except as otherwise designated by ordinance.

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Section 1 – Street Design Criteria

1.1.0 GENERAL

This section provides guidelines for the assignment of street classifications and their respective design criteria. *Per City of Austin Code 25-6-294(A), a waiver from the Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements shall be submitted, for review and approval, to the Director of the Public Works Department, using the “Request for Waiver from Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements” form provided in Appendix J.*

1.3.1(G) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Application of the street design criteria contained in this document to new subdivisions and site developments must take into consideration all applicable environmental standards, including restrictions on cut and fill and development setbacks from waterways and critical environmental features. Requirements of the street design criteria shall not be considered as sole justification for variances from the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance or any of the Special Watershed Ordinances. Conversely, requirements of the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance or any of the Special Watershed Ordinances shall not be considered as sole justification for variances from street design criteria. It is advisable to delineate all required setbacks and other applicable environmental protection measures prior to designing streets.

~~Minor deviations from the street design criteria A variance from the Transportation Criteria Manual requirements may be applied for using the “Request for Variance from Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements” form located in Appendix I, Variances will be granted on a case-by-case basis, in order to protect specific environmental features on severely constrained tracts provided that proposed deviations meet minimum safety standards, and Variances are to be submitted to and approved by the Directors of the Public Works Department, the Austin Transportation Department, Planning and Sustainability Development Review Department and the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. General deviations may be pursued as stated in the Preface of this Manual.~~

~~In the event that differences occur, the resolution procedure provided for in Title 25, the Land Development Code, applies.~~

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Section 4 – Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

4.1.0 GENERAL

This section addresses pedestrian needs and identifies sidewalk and curb ramp requirements for the various street classifications. *Per City of Austin Code 25-6-294(A), a waiver from the Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements shall be submitted, for review and approval, to the Director of the Public Works Department, using the “Request for Waiver from Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements” form provided in Appendix J.*

Section 5 - Driveways

5.1.0 GENERAL

This section provides minimum and desirable design criteria, provisions and requirements for safe and convenient access to abutting private property along streets and highways. The intent is to assure that access is provided to abutting private property with a minimum of interference with the free and safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to prevent traffic congestion arising from vehicular entry to or exit from abutting private property. The right of the public to free and unhampered passage of the public streets shall be held paramount to other interests. Regulated limitation of access is necessary on arterials to enhance their primary function of mobility. Conversely, the primary function of local roads and streets is to provide access. Figure 1-2 in Appendix H of this manual reflects the relationship of street classifications with access and mobility. *Per City of Austin Code 25-6-294(A), a waiver from the Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements shall be submitted, for review and approval, to the Director of the Public Works Department, using the “Request for Waiver from Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements” form provided in Appendix J.*

Section 11 – Structures in the Right of Way and in Easements

11.1.0 GENERAL

This section presents structural design criteria for retaining walls, bridges, culverts and stormwater drainage pipe to be constructed in the right-of-way and in easements. Structural design of electric distribution and mass transit facilities and hydraulic design of structures for stormwater drainage are presented in other Criteria Manuals. *Per City of Austin Code 25-6-294(A), a waiver from the Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements shall be submitted, for review and approval, to the Director of the Public Works Department, using the “Request for Waiver from Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements” form provided in Appendix J.*

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APPENDIX J (NEW)

FORM: Request for Waiver of Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements

(ATTACHED)



**REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM
TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS
Cover Sheet**



Date:

Requestor:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Mail form and supplemental material for review and approval to:

Director of Public Works Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78704

Mail copy of all waiver request materials to:

Director of Austin Austin Transportation Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78704



REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS Design Criteria Waiver Justification



Date Submitted: _____

Requestor: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

List of Applicable Design Criteria:*

Justification for waiver from the Design Criteria Listed above:

[Provide additional documents as needed to support request]

*Adopted Transportation Design Criteria Standards can be viewed at: [http://austintech.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Texas/transp/cityofaustintexastransportationcriteriam?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:austin_transportation](http://austintech.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Texas/transp/cityofaustintexastransportationcriteriam?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:austin_transportation)



**REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM
TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS
Response to Waiver Request**



Additional Information Required:

Accept Waiver Request

Deny Waiver Request

Reason for Denial of Waiver Request:

BY: _____

Date: _____

on behalf of the Public Works Department Director