

2013 Q1 – PWD Proposed Rule for Internal Review

PROPOSED VERSION for 1st Quarter 2013 Posting

Transportation Criteria Manual – Variance from TCM Requirements

Earliest Possible Adoption: February 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 variance 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 Variance* may be sought where warranted by social, economic or environmental impacts. *All requests for variations* ~~deviations~~ from these guidelines including 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 to* the Director of Public Works and /or- the Director of the *Austin Transportation Department* ~~Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department~~ *Planning and Development Review and Watershed Protection Department for review and approval* 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.

Section 1.3.1(G) -

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

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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.

APPENDIX I – Form: Request for Waiver of Transportation Criteria Manual Requirements

(ATTACHED)

CITY OF AUSTIN

**REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM
TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS**

Requestor: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone: _____

Signature of Professional Engineer submitting Request _____

PE Number _____

Date _____

PE Seal

Transmit separate copies to each of the following:

- Director of Public Works Department
- Director of Austin Transportation Department
- Director of Planning and Development Review Department
- Director of Watershed Protection Department

P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78704

Date Submitted: _____

CITY OF AUSTIN

**REQUEST FOR VARIANCE OF
TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS**

PROJECT LOCATION _____

List of Applicable Design Criteria:* _____

Justification for Deviation from the Design Criteria Listed above: _____

[Provide 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\\$anc=](http://austintech.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Texas/transp/cityofaustintexastransportationcriteriam?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:austin_transportation$anc=)

CITY OF AUSTIN

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE OF
TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA MANUAL REQUIREMENTS

Response to Waiver Request:

Additional information required:

Accept Waiver Request

Reject Waiver Request

BY _____
on behalf of the Public Works Department Director

Date _____

By _____
on behalf of the Austin Transportation Department Director

Date _____

By _____
on behalf of the Planning and Development Review Department Director

Date _____

By _____
on behalf of the Watershed Protection Department Director

Date _____