

Chapter H

Roadside Design Guide

PREFACE

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation (AIT) has developed the Roadside Design Guide (RDG) to provide highway designers with the necessary guidance to develop cost-effective roadside environments that meet the Province's safety objectives. This guide will also serve as a rudimentary reference for designers wishing to increase their knowledge in roadside design.

A fundamental goal of this initiative was to bring together the design guidance that was available from several source documents published by AIT and other agencies, while maintaining the essence of traditional design practice in the Province.

This guide constitutes part of a broader design guidance framework – design guides, manuals, instructions, and codes – that deal with all aspects of highway design. This includes the Highway Geometric Design Guide, Design Bulletins, Benefit Cost Analysis Manual, Standard Drawings (CB6 Manual and TEB), Bridge Standard Drawings, and the Canadian Bridge Code. It is important that the designer becomes familiar with the scope of design guidance provided by these documents, to understand the context of this document. The Roadside Design Guide should be used, and read in conjunction with, these other design-governing documents.

The Guide outlines the general philosophy and principles of roadside design and presents AIT's current practices and guidelines governing roadside design activities. A comprehensive design process for roadside design treatments is presented using a series of decision charts to guide the selection of the most appropriate design treatment for the specific situations under consideration.

Specific design topics include:

- Grading and drainage
- Roadside and median barrier systems
- Barrier end treatments and crash cushions
- Bridges
- Signs, supports, and poles
- Other roadside features
- Work Zones
- Urban and restricted areas

Potential resources for the designer to increase their knowledge in the area of roadside design are also included.

Users of this Guide should refer to the department's website for the current version. Any revisions, updates to drawings, etc. will be posted on the website on a timely basis.