# 500 Interchange Design

## 501 Interchange Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsection</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>501.1 General</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2 Interchange Type</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.1 Diamond Interchanges</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.1.1 Tight Urban Diamond Interchange (TUDI)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.1.2 Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.1.3 Diamond Interchange with Roundabouts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.1.4 Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.2 Cloverleaf Interchange</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.2.1 Partial Cloverleaf Interchange</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501.2.3 Directional Interchanges</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 502 Interchange Design Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsection</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>502.1 Determination of Interchange Configuration</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.2 Approaches to the Structure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.2.1 Alignment, Profile and Cross Section</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.2.2 Sight Distance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.3 Interchange Spacing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.4 Uniformity of Interchange Patterns</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.5 Route Continuity</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.6 Signing and Marking</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.7 Basic Number of Lanes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.8 Coordination of Lane Balance and Basic Number of Lanes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.9 Auxiliary Lanes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.10 Lane Reductions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502.11 Weaving Sections</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 503 Interchange Ramp Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsection</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>503.1 General</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.2 Ramp Design Speed</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.2.1 Diamond Ramp Design Speeds</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.2.2 Loop Ramp Design Speeds</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.2.3 Directional Ramp Design Speeds</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.3 Vertical Alignment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.4 Horizontal Alignment</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.5 Ramp Terminals</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.5.1 General Considerations</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.5.2 Left-hand Entrances and Exits</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503.5.3 Distance Between Successive Ramp Terminals</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
500 Intersection Design

503.6 Single-Lane Ramp Terminals ................................................................. 15
  503.6.1 Terminal Classification ................................................................. 15
  503.6.2 Single-Lane Entrance Terminals ................................................ 15
    503.6.2.1 High-Speed ................................................................. 15
    503.6.2.2 Low-Speed ................................................................. 16
  503.6.3 Single-Lane Exit Terminals .......................................................... 16
    503.6.3.1 High-Speed ................................................................. 16
    503.6.3.2 Low-Speed ................................................................. 16
  503.6.4 Superelevation at Terminals ....................................................... 16
  503.6.5 Terminals on Crest Vertical Curves ............................................ 17

503.7 Ramp At-Grade Intersections ............................................................ 17

504 Collector - Distributor (C-D) Roads ...................................................... 17
  504.1 Use of C-D Roads ........................................................................... 17
  504.2 Design of C-D Roads ..................................................................... 17
  504.3 C-D Road Entrance and Exit Terminals ........................................ 18

505 Multi-lane Ramp & Roadway Terminals and Transitions .................. 18
  505.1 Multi-lane Entrance Ramps and Converging Roadways ............... 18
    505.1.1 General ............................................................................... 18
    505.1.2 Lane Balance and Continuity .............................................. 18
    505.1.3 Inside Merges ...................................................................... 18
    505.1.4 Preferential Flow ............................................................... 19
    505.1.5 Horizontal Curvature .......................................................... 19
    505.1.6 Crest Vertical Curves ............................................................ 19
    505.1.7 Superelevation and Joint Location ....................................... 19
  505.2 Multi-lane Exit Ramps and Diverging Roadways ......................... 19
    505.2.1 General ............................................................................... 19
    505.2.2 Lane Balance and Continuity .............................................. 20
    505.2.3 Terminal Design ................................................................. 20
    505.2.4 Horizontal Curvature .......................................................... 20
    505.2.5 Crest Vertical Curves ............................................................ 20
    505.2.6 Superelevation and Joint Location ....................................... 21
  505.3 Four Lane Divided to Two Lane Transition ................................... 21

506 Service Roads ...................................................................................... 21
  506.1 Use of Service Roads ..................................................................... 21
  506.2 Design of Service Roads ............................................................... 21

550 Requests for New or Revised Access Interstate Highways or Other Freeways .................................................. 22
  550.1 General ....................................................................................... 22
  550.2 Interchange Study (Access Point Request Document) ................... 22
    550.2.1 Interchange Operations Study (IOS) .................................... 25
    550.2.2 Safety Improvements on Interstate or Other Freeways ........... 26
  550.3 Holistic Methodology for Operational Analysis ............................. 26
500 Intersection Design

550.4 Submission of Interchange Studies ................................................................. 27
550.5 Review of Interchange Studies ........................................................................ 27

LIST OF FIGURES
501 INTERCHANGE DESIGN

501.1 General
An interchange is defined as a system of interconnecting roadways in conjunction with one or more grade separations that provides for the movement of traffic between two or more roadways or highways on different levels. Interchanges are utilized on freeways and expressways where access control is important. They are used on other types of facilities only where crossing and turning traffic cannot be accommodated by a normal at-grade intersection. An Interchange Justification Study may be necessary.

501.2 Interchange Type

The most commonly used types of interchanges are the diamond, cloverleaf and directional.

501.2.1 Diamond Interchanges

The diamond interchange is the most common type where a major facility intersects a minor highway. The design allows free-flow operation on the major highway but creates at-grade intersections on the minor highway with the ramps. Traffic control at the at-grade intersections can be stop, signal or roundabout. The capacity of a diamond interchange is limited by the at-grade intersections on the minor highway. Variations of the diamond interchange include but are not limited to the Tight Urban Diamond Interchange (TUDI), the Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) and the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI).

501.2.1.1 Tight Urban Diamond Interchange (TUDI)

The TUDI, a type of compressed diamond interchange, is used in urban and suburban areas where right of way is limited. This interchange design has two closely spaced signalized ramp intersections. Special signal phasing allows queuing of vehicles outside the ramp intersections and eliminates queuing of vehicles between the ramp intersections. Typical designs provide 250 to 400 feet of separation between the signalized intersections.

The key operational aspect of a TUDI is one controller running both intersections implementing the Texas Diamond 4 Phase operation. The single controller that runs both ramps can be coordinated with adjacent intersections, but the two ramp signals are on one controller. The 4 phase sequence is used when queue storage between the ramp intersections is critical as it tends to not store any vehicles between the two ramp intersections.

A TUDI may not need to implement Texas Diamond 4-Phase operation. Geometric constraints may warrant the construction of a TUDI, but operational benefits of the Texas Diamond Phasing may not be needed and conventional signal phasing can be used.
501.2.1.2 Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
The SPUI, is another variation of the compressed diamond interchange. It was developed to streamline operations by using a single traffic signal to control traffic movements within the interchange area. The SPUI also requires less right-of-way than a conventional diamond interchange.

A SPUI should be considered:
- In areas with limited right-of-way.
- At locations with heavy left turn volumes both on and off the ramps.
- At locations where a wider structure or intersection can be accommodated.

SPUIs offer the following benefits:
- Construction in a relatively narrow right-of-way, resulting in potentially significant cost reductions.
- Since the SPUI has only one intersection, as opposed to two for a diamond interchange, the operation of the single traffic signal on the crossroad may result in reduced delay through the intersection area when compared to a diamond interchange.
- Improved safety since vehicles only cross paths at one intersection instead of two.
- Right turn movements both on and off the ramps are typically free flow or yield control.
- Only the left turns pass through the signalized intersection. As a result, a major source of traffic conflict is eliminated, increasing overall intersection efficiency and reducing the traffic signal phasing needed from four-phase to three-phase operation.
- The turning angle and curve radii for left-turn movements through the intersection are significantly flatter than at conventional intersections and, therefore, the left turns move at higher speeds. The left turn angle is typically 45 to 60 degrees with a minimum radius of 150 to 200 ft. The above-mentioned operations may result in a higher capacity than a conventional tight diamond interchange.

Limitations/disadvantages of a SPUI include:
- Construction costs of SPUIs tend to be much higher than conventional diamond interchanges due to costs associated with the bridges. Overpass SPUIs need long bridges to span the large intersection below. A two-span structure is not a design option because a center column would conflict with traffic movements. Single-span overpass bridges are typically 220 ft in length, while
three-span bridges often exceed 400 ft. The SPUI underpass tends to be wide and often is “butterfly” in shape. Rectangular SPUI structures, while resulting in unused deck area, may provide additional area for maintenance of traffic and simplified construction. Where right-of-way is constrained, SPUs typically utilize extensive retaining walls, further adding to the cost. However, the higher construction cost of SPUs is often offset by the reduced right-of-way cost.

- A potential disadvantage of SPUs is the length and geometry of the path for left-turning vehicles through the intersection. Like typical intersections, left-turning vehicles pass to the left of opposing left-turning vehicles. Due to the size and distance between opposing approaches, the path of left-turning vehicles does not resemble a quarter of a circle found at typical intersections, but rather resembles a quarter of an ellipse. To provide positive guidance for this non-traditional path dashed lane lines should be painted through the intersection.

- A skew angle between the two roadway alignments has an adverse effect on SPUs because it increases clearance distances and adversely affects sight distance. Severe skew in alignments may also increase the length of the bridge and widen the distance between the stop bars on the local streets. Extreme care should be exercised in planning SPUs when the skew angle approaches 30 degrees. It is important to provide visibility between exit ramp traffic and cross street traffic approaching from the left. For left-turn movements from the mainline's ramp to the cross street, provide a clear cornering sight line with no obstructions from bridge abutments, pilasters, signal/light poles, signing, or landscaping.

- It is often cost prohibitive to widen the SPUI in the future. A full build based on future traffic projections may lead to increased construction costs of the structure.

Design considerations of a SPUI include:

- It is desirable that the left-turn curve be a single radius. This will, however, typically result in additional right-of-way, a larger bridge structure, or both. Where it is not practical to provide a single radius and curves are compounded from a larger to a smaller radius, the second curve should be at least half the radius of the first.

- Stopping sight distance should be provided on the left-turn movements equal to or exceeding the design speed for the curve radius involved.

- Additional median width on the cross street can improve intersection operation. The stop bar location on the cross street is dependent on the wheel tracks from the opposing ramp left-turn movement. By widening the median, the stop bar on the cross street can be moved forward, thus reducing the size of the intersection and the distance each vehicle travels through the intersection. The results include greater available green time and less potential driver confusion due to an expansive intersection area.

- Provide a minimum clear distance of 10 ft between opposing left turns within the intersection.

- Pedestrian crossing of the local street at ramp terminals typically adds a signal phase and uses considerable green time, resulting in reduced operational efficiency. Therefore, the overall design should include provision for pedestrian crossings at adjacent intersections instead of at the ramp terminal intersection.

- Right-turn lanes at SPUs are typically separated from the left-turn lanes, often by a considerable distance. The exit ramp right turn can be a free or controlled movement. The design of free right turns should include an additional lane on the cross street beginning at the free right-turn lane for at least 300 ft before being merged. Free-flow right turns from the exit ramp to the crossroad may or may not be desirable depending on the traffic operational analysis which includes the downstream intersection(s) of the crossroad. There may be inadequate weaving distance between the exit ramp and the adjacent intersection. Where the right-turn movement is controlled by a stop sign or traffic signal, adequate right-turn storage on the exit ramp should be provided to prevent blockage of vehicles turning left or traveling straight. Free-flow right turns on entrance ramps pose little operational concern, assuming adequate merge length is provided on the entrance ramp. The right-turn lane should extend at least 300 ft beyond the convergence point before beginning the merge.
501.2.1.3 Diamond Interchange with Roundabouts

Roundabout interchanges utilize roundabouts at either one or both ramp intersections. Additional bridge width is usually not necessary at roundabout interchanges due to the elimination of turn lanes. The benefits and costs associated with this type of interchange also follow those for a single roundabout.

Roundabouts may be a good alternative if the interchange has a high proportion of left turn flows from the off ramps and to the on ramps during peak periods, combined with limited queue storage space on the bridge crossing, off-ramps, or arterial approaches. In such circumstances, roundabouts operating within their capacity are particularly useful in solving these problems when compared with other forms of intersection control.

The raindrop roundabout interchange design exhibits very little queuing between the intersections since these movements are almost unopposed. This allows the approach lanes across the bridge to be minimized. Conversely, drivers do not have to yield when approaching from the connecting roadway between the two roundabouts. If the roundabout is designed poorly, drivers may be traveling faster than they should to negotiate the next roundabout safely; therefore, the relative speeds need to be evaluated.

A potential benefit of roundabout interchanges is that the queue length on the off-ramps may be less than at a signalized intersection.

501.2.1.4 Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

The Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) is a variation of a conventional diamond interchange. The DDI uses directional crossover intersections to shift traffic on the cross street to the left-hand side between the ramp terminals within the interchange. Crossing the through movements to the opposite side replaces left-turn conflicts with same-direction merge/diverge movements and eliminates the need for exclusive left-turn signal phases to and from the ramp terminals. All connections from the ramps to and from the cross street are joined outside of the cross-over intersections, and these connections can be controlled by two-phase signals, have stop or yield control, or be free flowing provided there are no access points downstream creating a weaving situation.

A DDI should be considered:
- At locations where there is limited roadway width for left-turns between ramp intersections and limited right-of-way to expand.
- At locations with heavy left turn volumes both on and off the ramps.
- At locations without adjacent traffic signals/nearby driveways.
- At locations where adjacent traffic signals are present and the adjacent intersections can be modified through retiming or rephasing.

The DDI offers the following benefits:
- Improved safety due to the reduction in the number of conflict points (locations where vehicle paths cross), vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-pedestrian and vehicle-to-bike.
- By allowing the ramp-terminal intersections to operate with two-phase signal operations, provides flexibility to accommodate a greater volume of traffic and operate with less delay.
- Overall operations of a DDI may be greater compared to a conventional signalized diamond interchange due to shorter cycle lengths, reduced time lost per cycle phase, reduced stops and delay, and shorter queue lengths.
- The DDI also reduces the number and severity of conflict points for both motorized and nonmotorized users. The crossing distances for pedestrians are comparatively shorter, and usually involve traffic approaching from only one direction at a time. The cross-sectional characteristics of a DDI provide multiple options for facilitating convenient pedestrian and bicycle movements, and the geometry of the crossover intersections have an added benefit of
Reducing motorized vehicle speeds through the interchange, resulting in a traffic calming effect which may reduce crashes.

- Retrofitting an existing conventional diamond interchange to a DDI may be less costly than options involving widening the crossroad near the interchange (including widening the bridge) and adding additional lanes to the ramps.
- For new interchanges, the operational efficiency of a DDI may allow for a smaller structural footprint since fewer lanes are generally needed to accommodate the traffic demands. In some contexts, the DDI may allow for reduced right-of-way needs and construction costs compared to other interchange forms.
- The large channelizing islands help reduce wrong-way movements onto the exit ramps.
- Accommodates either overpass or underpass designs.
- Provides improved bicycle/pedestrian safety by using one sidewalk through the median; as opposed to, two sidewalks to the outside perimeter of the DDI. The median sidewalk creates fewer ramp crossings and removes left turning vehicle conflicts with bicycles/pedestrians.

Limitations/Disadvantages of a DDI include:

- Crossing traffic to the “wrong side” of the road may not meet driver expectations.
- A DDI does not allow free flowing traffic on the crossroad in both directions since the signals cannot be green at both intersections for both directions at the same time.
- The potential operational benefits of the DDI ramp intersections may be overshadowed by poor operational performance of nearby signals on the crossroad. If an adjacent signal is too close and the queue storage length is inadequate, the traffic spillback may inhibit the movement of traffic along the crossroad, and potentially block traffic from the exit ramps.
- The DDI design does not accommodate typical “up and over” exit to entrance movements for oversized vehicles or authorized vehicles during maintenance or emergency situations.
• Crossroads that are heavily skewed to the main facility typically need greater intersection spacing.

None of the items listed above will necessarily preclude the use of a DDI, but are considerations.

Design considerations for a DDI include:
• It may be advantageous to use multiple structures at the grade separation, especially where the skew angle between facilities is significant.
• The spacing between ramp intersections will impact signal design and operations on the crossroad corridor but very tight spacing between ramp intersections may constrain the design of the crossovers and limit queue storage and signal timing options.
• The proximity to a DDI of adjacent signalized intersections along the crossroad may impact the performance of the DDI at a given location. Modifications to adjacent signalized intersections along the crossroad may be necessary to maintain the overall signal progression along the corridor and reduce potential effects of queue spillback.
• Analysis of adjacent intersections needs to be checked to ensure bottlenecks will not occur preventing the DDI from seeing the anticipated design traffic volumes. Oftentimes, the interchange intersections have been the bottleneck in the past and when the DDI’s two-phase signals interact with the adjacent intersections four-phase signals the adjacent intersections are exposed as a bottleneck.
• The through movement queues need to be checked at the crossovers for blockage of the free-flowing left and right turns to and from the ramps. Auxiliary lanes may be needed for the turn lanes if blockage occurs. If an auxiliary lane is needed for the left turning vehicles onto the entrance ramp the auxiliary lane should be developed prior to the upstream crossover since it is undesirable to have lane changing movements in between the crossovers.
• Design speeds for crossover alignments should be in the range of 10 mph minimum to 15 mph maximum below the legal posted speed of the roadway, with a minimum design speed of 25 mph.
• Cross slopes are typically in the range of plus or minus 2 percent.
• Higher approach speeds need to be lowered to the crossover design speeds with advance warning signs and geometric features (reverse curves, etc.).
• A minimum of 100 ft of tangent between the reverse curves through the crossover should be provided in both directions. The tangent helps to maintain the desired vehicle tracking and the curve-tangent-curve sequence promotes driving at the desired target speed. Section 6.4.7.5 of NCHRP 659 provides guidance on determining the crossover tangent length.
• Radii at the exit and entrance ramp movements are like other interchanges and include allowance for the turning path of the design vehicle, sight distance, pedestrians, bicycles and the intersection traffic control type.
• The crossing angle is the acute angle between lanes of opposing traffic within the crossover based on the tangent sections. The greater the crossover angle, the more the crossover will appear like a “normal” intersection of two different cross routes and decrease the likelihood of a driver making a wrong-way movement. However, greater crossing angles generally result in larger footprints. Larger crossing angles in combination with sharp reverse curves can increase the potential for overturning of vehicles with high centers of gravity and excessive driver discomfort through the crossovers. The recommended approach is to attain the largest crossing angle possible that is in balance with the other geometric parameters and site constraints. The crossover angle of a DDI is generally between 40 to 50 degrees. Crossover angles less than 30 degrees may increase the potential for wrong-way movements.
• Lane widths along the crossroad of a DDI typically range from 12 to 15 ft depending on site location and consideration for design vehicles traveling side by side through the crossover area. The wider lane width typically occurs prior to and after the crossover curves. The additional lane width does not need to be continued between the two crossovers. The shoulders required by the crossroad should also be provided through the DDI. The outside shoulder will become the inside shoulder between the crossover intersections.
500 Interchange Design

- Sight distance at DDIs is important for both vehicles maneuvering through the crossovers or turning left and right from the ramp terminals onto the cross street, especially when the turning ramp terminal traffic is under yield control.
- Provide left turn lanes on exit ramps with enough curvature to ensure drivers turn into the inside through lanes and not make a wrong way turn.
- Place the left turn on the exit ramps as close to the cross-over as possible to reduce clearance time (all-red) to improve signal efficiency.

The FHWA *Diverging Diamond Interchange Informational Guide* provides additional information on diverging diamond interchanges.

501.2.2 Cloverleaf Interchange

Cloverleaf designs may be used in lieu of a diamond when a continuous flow design is required where two major facilities intersect. In this case, a full cloverleaf interchange is the minimum design that can be used. The designer should consider collector-distributor roads in conjunction with cloverleaf interchanges to minimize weaving.

However, full cloverleafs have deficiencies which need to be addressed before being chosen as the interchange type. Principle disadvantages are:

- The inherent weaving maneuver generated and the short weaving length available.
- Large trucks may not be able to operate efficiently on the smaller curve radii on the associated loop ramps.
- Loop ramps are limited in capacity.

When Collector-Distributor roads are not used, a further disadvantage includes weaving on the main line, the double exit on the main line and problems associated with signing for the second exit.

The full cloverleaf weaving maneuver is not objectionable when the left-turning movements are relatively light, but when the sum of traffic volumes on two adjoining loops approaches about 1,000 vehicles per hour, interference occurs, which results in a reduction in the speed of the mainline traffic.
When the weaving volume in a section exceeds 1,000 vehicles per hour, the quality of service on the main facility deteriorates, generating a need to transfer the weaving section from the through lanes to a C-D road. For these reasons, full cloverleafs are discouraged.

501.2.2.1 Partial Cloverleaf Interchange

Partial cloverleaf designs may be used in lieu of a diamond when development or other physical conditions prohibit construction in a quadrant, or where heavy left turns are involved. In the design of partial cloverleafs, the site conditions may offer a choice of quadrants to use. However, at an interchange site, topography and culture may be the factors that determine the quadrants in which the ramps and loops can be developed. There is considerable operational advantage in certain arrangements of ramps. These are discussed and summarized below.

Ramps should be arranged so that the entrance and exit turns create the least impediment to the traffic flow on the major highway. The following guidelines should be considered in the arrangement of the ramps at partial cloverleafs:

The ramp arrangement should enable major turning movements to be made by right-turn exits and entrances.

Where through-traffic volume on the major highway is decidedly greater than that on the intersecting minor road, preference should be for an arrangement that places the right turns (either exit or entrance) on the major highway, even though this results in a direct left turn off the crossroad. These controls do not always lead to the most direct turning movements. Instead, drivers frequently may need to first turn away from or drive beyond the road that is their intended destination. Such arrangements cannot be avoided if the through-traffic movements, for which the separation is provided, are to be facilitated to the extent practical.
500 Interchange Design

The ParClo A layout has loop ramps that are in diagonally opposite quadrants and the ramps are on the near side of the structure as drivers approach on the major road. Preferred for a high volume of left-turns from the crossroad to the mainline. Weaving between the loop ramps is eliminated.

Partial Cloverleaf B Interchange (2 Quadrant ParClo B) I-71/SR48 (Google)

The ParClo B layout has loop ramps that are in diagonally opposite quadrants and the ramps are on the far side of the structure as drivers approach on the major road. Preferred for a high volume of left-turns from the mainline to the crossroad. Weaving between the loop ramps is eliminated.

For additional information and types of Partial Cloverleaf Interchanges, see the AASHTO Green Book, Chapter 10.

501.2.3 Directional Interchanges

Directional interchanges are the highest type and most expensive. They permit vehicles to move from one major freeway to another major freeway at relatively fast and safe speeds.

502 INTERCHANGE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

502.1 Determination of Interchange Configuration

Interchange configurations are covered in two categories, “system interchanges” and “service interchanges.” The term “system interchange” is used to identify interchanges that connect two or more freeways, whereas the term “service interchange” applies to interchanges that connect a freeway to lesser facilities. Generally, interchanges in rural areas are widely spaced and can be designed on an individual basis without any appreciable effect from other interchanges within the system. However, the final configuration of an interchange may be determined by the need for route continuity, uniformity of exit patterns, single exits in advance of the separation structure, and elimination of weaving on the main facility, signing potential, and availability of right-of-way. Selecting an appropriate interchange configuration in an urban environment involves considerable analysis of prevailing conditions so that the most practical interchange configuration alternatives can be developed. Generally, in urban areas, interchanges are so closely spaced that each interchange may be influenced directly by the preceding or following interchange to the extent that additional traffic lanes may be needed to satisfy capacity, weaving and lane balance.
Interchanges should provide for all movements, even when an anticipated turning movement volume is low.

Once several alternates have been prepared for the system design, they can be compared on the following principles: (1) capacity, (2) route continuity, (3) uniformity of exit patterns, (4) single exits in advance of the separation structure, (5) with or without weaving, (6) potential for signing, (7) cost, (8) availability of right-of-way, (9) constructability, and (10) compatibility with the environment.

502.2 Approaches to the Structure

502.2.1 Alignment, Profile and Cross Section

Traffic passing through an interchange should be afforded the same degree of utility and safety as that given on the approaching roadways. The design speed, alignment, profile and cross section in the interchange area should be consistent with those on the approaching highways. Four-lane roadways should be divided at interchanges with a non-traversable median to ensure that drivers use the proper ramps for left-turning maneuvers. At-grade left turns preferably should be accommodated within a suitably wide median.

502.2.2 Sight Distance

Sight distance on the roadways through an interchange should be at a minimum the required stopping sight distance and preferably should be Decision Sight Distance (Figure 201-6), particularly along entrances and exits.

The horizontal sight distance limitations of piers and abutments at curves usually present a more difficult problem than that of vertical limitations. With the minimum radius for a given design speed, the normal lateral clearances at piers and abutments of underpasses does not provide the minimum stopping sight distance. Similarly, on overpasses with the sharpest curvature for the design speed, sight distance deficiencies result from the usual offset to the bridge railing. Above minimum radii should be used for curvature on roadways through interchanges. If sufficiently flat curvature cannot be used, the clearances to abutments, piers or bridge railing should be increased to obtain the proper sight distance, even though this involves increasing structure spans or widths.

502.3 Interchange Spacing

Interchanges should be located close enough together to properly discharge and receive traffic from other highways or streets, and far enough apart to permit the free flow and safety of traffic on the main facility. In general, more frequent interchange spacing is permitted in urbanized areas. Minimum spacing is determined by weaving requirements, ability to sign, lengths of speed change lanes, and capacity of the main facility.

Interchanges within urban areas should not be spaced closer than an average of 2 miles, in suburban sections an average of not closer than 4 miles, and in rural sections an average of not closer than 8 miles. In consideration of the varying nature of the highway, street or road systems with which the freeway or expressway must connect, the spacing between individual adjacent interchanges must vary considerably. In urban areas, the minimum distance between adjacent interchanges should not be less than 1 mile, and in rural areas not less than 3 miles. Spacing less than this have a detrimental effect on freeway operations.
500 Interchange Design

502.4 Uniformity of Interchange Patterns

Since interchange uniformity and route continuity are interrelated concepts, interchanges along a freeway should be reasonably uniform in geometric layout and general appearance to provide the appropriate level of service and maximum safety in conjunction with freeway operations. Except in highly special cases, all entrance and exit ramps should be on the right.

502.5 Route Continuity

Route continuity is an extension of the principle of operational uniformity coupled with the application of proper lane balance and the principle of maintaining a basic number of lanes. The principle of route continuity simplifies the driving task in that it reduces lane changes, simplifies signing, delineates the through route and reduces the driver’s search for directional signing. Desirably, the through driver should be provided a continuous through route on which changing lanes is not necessary to continue on the through route. In maintaining route continuity, interchange configuration may not always favor the heavy traffic movement, but rather the through route. In this situation, heavy movements can be designed on flat curves with reasonably direct connections and auxiliary lanes.

502.6 Signing and Marking

The safety, efficiency and clarity of paths to be followed at interchanges depend largely on their relative spacing, geometric layout and effective signing and marking. The location of and minimum spacing between ramp terminals depends to a large degree on whether or not effective signing can be provided. Signing and marking should conform to the OMUTCD.

502.7 Basic Number of Lanes

The basic number of lanes is defined as a minimum number of lanes designated and maintained over a significant length of a route, irrespective of changes in traffic volume and lane balance needs. (The basic number of lanes is a constant number of lanes assigned to a route, exclusive of auxiliary lanes, based on capacity needs of the section.)

502.8 Coordination of Lane Balance and Basic Number of Lanes

Design traffic volumes and a capacity analysis determine the basic number of lanes to be used on the freeway and the minimum number of lanes on the ramps. The basic number of lanes should be established for a substantial length of freeway and should not be changed through pairs of interchanges, simply because there are substantial volumes of traffic entering or leaving the freeway. There should be continuity in the basic number of lanes. Auxiliary lanes should be provided for variations in traffic demand.

After the basic number of lanes is determined for each roadway, the balance in the number of lanes should be checked on the basis of the following principles:

1. At entrances, the number of lanes beyond the merging of two traffic streams should not be less than the sum of all traffic lanes on the merging roadways minus one, but may be equal to the sum of all traffic lanes on the merging roadways.

2. At exits, the number of approach lanes on the roadway should be equal to the number of lanes on the roadway beyond the exit, plus the number of lanes on the exit, minus one. Exceptions to this principle occur at cloverleaf loop ramp exits that follow a loop ramp entrance and at exits
between closely spaced interchanges. In these cases, the auxiliary lane may be dropped in a single-lane exit with the number of lanes on the approach roadway being equal to the number of through lanes beyond the exit plus the lane on the exit.

3. The traveled way of the highway should be reduced by not more than one traffic lane at a time.

502.9 Auxiliary Lanes

An auxiliary lane is the portion of the roadway adjoining the traveled way for speed change, turning, storage for turning, weaving and other purposes supplementary to through-traffic movement. An auxiliary lane may be provided to comply with the concept of lane balance, to comply with capacity needs or to accommodate speed changes, weaving and maneuvering of entering or exiting traffic.

502.10 Lane Reductions

The basic number of mainline lanes should not be reduced through a “service interchange”. If a reduction in the basic number of lanes is warranted by a substantial decrease in traffic volume over a significant length of freeway, then it should be reduced between interchanges. The reduction should occur 2,000 to 3,000 ft. from the end of the acceleration taper of the previous interchange to allow for adequate signing. The end of the lane reduction should be tapered at a rate of 70:1. The lane reduction should occur on a tangent section of freeway, preferably within a sag vertical curve, and provide Decision Sight Distance, Figure 201-6, where possible. The lane reduction should also be on the right side of the freeway.

502.11 Weaving Sections

Weaving sections are highway segments where the pattern of traffic entering and exiting at contiguous points of access results in vehicle paths crossing each other. Weaving sections may occur within an interchange, between closely spaced interchanges or on segments of overlapping routes.

Because weaving sections cause considerable turbulence which results in a reduction in capacity, interchange designs that eliminate weaving or remove it from the mainline by the use of C-D roads are desirable.

The capacity of weaving sections may be seriously restricted unless the weaving section has adequate length, adequate width and lane balance. Refer to the Highway Capacity Manual for capacity analysis of weaving sections.

503 INTERCHANGE RAMP DESIGN

503.1 General

An interchange ramp is a roadway which connects two legs of an interchange. Ramp cross section elements are discussed in Section 303.1. Elements contributing to horizontal and vertical alignments are designed similarly to any roadway (Section 200) once the ramp design speed has been determined.

503.2 Ramp Design Speed

In order to design horizontal and vertical alignment features, a design speed must be determined for each ramp. Since the driver expects a speed adjustment on a ramp, the design speed may vary within the ramp limits. Figure 503-1 includes three ranges of ramp design speeds which vary with the design.
speed of the mainline roadway. The ramp design speed range is determined by engineering judgment based on several conditions:

1. The type of roadways at each end of the ramp and their design speeds,
2. The length of the ramp,
3. The terminal conditions at each end, and
4. The type of ramp (diamond, loop or directional).

Design exceptions will be required for speed related design criteria that do not meet the following:
- For directional ramps (roadways) that do not provide the minimum design speed given in Section 503.2.3.
- For loop ramps on high-speed roadways that do not provide a minimum design speed of 25 mph (150-ft radius).
- For all other ramps that, at a minimum, do not provide the lower range design speed of Figure 503-1.

### 503.2.1 Diamond Ramp Design Speeds

Diamond ramps normally have a high speed condition at one end and an at-grade intersection with either a stop or slow turn (15 mph) condition at the other. Upper to middle range design speeds in Figure 503-1 are normal near the high speed facility with middle to lower range design speeds usually used closer to the at-grade intersection.

### 503.2.2 Loop Ramp Design Speeds

Loop ramps may have a high speed condition at one end and, either a slow or high speed condition at the other. Loop ramps, because of their short radius, usually have design speeds in the lower range in the middle and slow speed end of the ramp with middle range design speeds occasionally used nearer the high speed terminal. For design speeds, see Figure 503-1. The minimum loop ramp radius is 150 feet (50 m).

### 503.2.3 Directional Ramp Design Speeds

Directional ramps (roadways) generally have high speed conditions at both ends. They are normally designed using a design speed falling into the upper range of Figure 503-1. The absolute minimum should be the middle range design speeds.

### 503.3 Vertical Alignment

Maximum grades for vertical alignment cannot be as definitely expressed as for the highway, but should preferably not exceed 5 percent. General values of limiting upgrades are shown in Table 503-1, but for any one ramp the grades to be used are dependent upon a number of factors. These factors include the following:

1. The flatter the gradient on the ramp relative to the freeway grade, the longer the ramp will be.
2. The steepest grades should occur over the center part of the ramp. Grades at the terminal ends of the ramp should be as flat as possible.
3. Short upgrades of 7 to 8 percent permit good operation without unduly slowing down passenger cars. Short upgrades of as much as 5 percent do not unduly affect trucks and buses.
4. Ramp grades and lengths can be significantly impacted by the angle of intersection between the two highways when the angle is 70 degrees or less. The direction and grade on the two highways may also have a significant impact.

5. Adequate sight distance is more important than a specific gradient control and should be favored in design.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 503-1</th>
<th>Maximum Ramp Upgrades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramp Design Speed</td>
<td>25-30 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desirable Grade (%)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Grade (%)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Downgrades may exceed the table values by 2% but not exceed an 8% maximum.

503.4 Horizontal Alignment

Horizontal alignment will be largely determined by the selected design speed and type of ramp. The horizontal alignment criteria found in Section 202 also applies to ramps. Check that the required horizontal stopping sight distance is provided. Use the allowed skew at the ramp terminal at-grade intersection to minimize curvature.

Depending on the design speed and curvature, curve widening may be required on a two-lane ramp. See Section 301.1.3 and Figure 301-5c. The WB-62 [WB-19] design vehicle should be used for Interstate ramps.

503.5 Ramp Terminals

The terminal of a ramp is that portion adjacent to the through traveled way, including speed change lanes, tapers and islands. Ramp terminals, as opposed to diverging roadways, require speed change lanes. Ramp terminals may be the at-grade type, as at the crossroad terminal of diamond or partial cloverleaf interchanges, or the free-flow type where ramp traffic merges with or diverges from high-speed through traffic at flat angles. Terminals are further classified as either single-lane or multi-lane and as either a taper or parallel type.

503.5.1 General Considerations

While interchanges are custom designed to fit specific site conditions, it is desirable that the overall pattern of exits along the freeway have some degree of uniformity. It is desirable that all interchanges have one point of exit located in advance of the crossroad wherever practical.

Because considerable turbulence occurs throughout weaving sections, interchange designs that eliminate weaving entirely or at least remove it from the mainline are desirable. Weaving sections may be eliminated from the mainline by the incorporation of C-D roadways or grade separating the ramps (braiding).

Interchanges that provide all exit movements before any entrance movements will also eliminate weaving and are highly recommended.
503.5.2 Left-hand Entrances and Exits

Left-hand entrances and exits are contrary to the concept of driver expectancy when intermixed with right-hand entrances and exits. Therefore, extreme care should be exercised to avoid left-hand entrances and exits in the design of interchanges. Because they are contrary to driver expectancy, special attention should be given to signing and the provision for decision sight distances to alert the driver an unusual condition exists.

503.5.3 Distance Between Successive Ramp Terminals

In urban areas ramp terminals are often located in close succession. To provide sufficient weaving length and adequate space for signing, a reasonable distance should be provided between successive ramp terminals. Spacing between successive outer ramp terminals is dependent on the classification of the interchanges involved, the function of the ramp pairs (entrance or exit), and weaving potential. Minimum spacing for various ramp combinations are shown in Figure 503-1a.

Where an entrance ramp is followed by an exit ramp, that absolute minimum distance between the successive noses is governed by weaving considerations. This spacing is not applicable to cloverleaf interchanges as the distances between entrance-exit ramps noses is dependent on loop ramp radii and other factors. When the distance between successive noses is less than 1,500 ft. the speed change lanes should be connected to provide an auxiliary lane to improve traffic flow over a relatively short section of the freeway.

503.6 Single-Lane Ramp Terminals

This discussion is limited to terminals used for single-lane entrance and exit ramps only. See Section 505 for multi-lane transitions. Ohio’s standards currently permit a parallel exit terminal and tapered entrance terminal.

503.6.1 Terminal Classification

Ohio uses two basic ramp terminal classifications.

High-Speed Terminals (See Figures 503-2a, 503-2b and 503-2c, along with Figures 503-3a, 503-3b and 503-3c) - High-Speed terminals are intended for use on all Interstate highways and on other limited access freeways or expressways having similar design standards and a minimum mainline design speed of 50 mph.

Low-Speed Terminals (See Figures 503-4a and 503-4b) - Low-Speed terminals (mainline design speeds of 45 mph or less) are intended for use on all other limited access expressways or other highways which have little or no access control except through an interchange area. Many of the features of Low-Speed terminals are applicable to a terminal of one ramp with another ramp. Low Speed terminals are also used with Low-Speed C-D Roads.

503.6.2 Single-Lane Entrance Terminals

503.6.2.1 High-Speed

The typical single-lane entrance terminal consists of two parts, an acceleration lane and a taper. The acceleration lane allows the entering vehicle to accelerate to the freeway speed and evaluate gaps in the freeway traffic. The taper is provided for the entering vehicle to merge into the chosen gap in freeway traffic. The minimum taper rate is 50:1.
The length of the acceleration lane varies depending on the design speed of the last ramp curve on the entrance ramp and the design speed of the mainline. *Figure 503-2a* provides the minimum lengths of acceleration lanes for entrance ramp terminals. When the average grade of the acceleration lane exceeds 3%, the acceleration length obtained from *Figure 503-2a* should be adjusted by the factor obtained from *Figure 503-2b*. The acceleration lane length is measured from the last entrance ramp curve point (PT or CS) to the point where the right edge of traveled way of the ramp is 12 feet from the right edge of the through traveled way of the freeway. *Figure 503-2c* illustrates the typical design of a single-lane entrance ramp terminal.

If the entrance terminal results in an add-lane (no merge), delete the last 600’ of the 50:1 taper of *Figure 503-2c*. All other entrance terminal dimensions of *Figure 503-2c* remain the same.

Referring to *Figure 503-2c*, when the required acceleration length (L from *Figure 503-2a*, adjusted to grade, *Figure 503-2b*) is less than the acceleration length provided by the 200 ft. spiral plus 650 ft. of the 50:1 taper, then a parallel acceleration length is not required and the terminal becomes the minimum acceptable design consisting of the 200 ft. spiral and the 1,250 ft. 50:1 taper.

### 503.6.2.2 Low-Speed

*Figure 503-4a* provides the Low-Speed Entrance Terminal designs for mainline design speeds equal to or less than 45 mph.

### 503.6.3 Single-Lane Exit Terminals

#### 503.6.3.1 High-Speed

The typical single-lane exit terminal consists of two parts, a taper for maneuvering out of the through traffic lane and a deceleration lane to slow to the speed of the first curve on the ramp. All deceleration should occur on the full width deceleration lane and not on the mainline or the taper.

The length of the deceleration lane varies depending on the design speed of the mainline and the design speed of first geometric control on the exit ramp, usually a horizontal curve but could be the stopping sight distance on a vertical curve or the back of an anticipated traffic queue. *Figure 503-3a* provides the minimum lengths of deceleration lanes for exit ramp terminals. When the average grade of the deceleration lane exceeds 3 percent, the deceleration length obtained from *Figure 503-3a* should be adjusted by the factor obtained from *Figure 503-3b*. The deceleration lane length is measured from the point where the taper reaches a width of 12 feet to the first point that governs the design speed of the exit ramp, usually the PC of the first curve. *Figure 503-3c* illustrates the typical design of a single-lane exit ramp terminal.

The deceleration length is the maximum of either 800 ft. or the deceleration length in *Figure 503-3a* multiplied by the adjustment factor as a function of grade in *Figure 503-3b*.

#### 503.6.3.2 Low-Speed

*Figure 503-4b* provides the Low-Speed Exit Terminal design for mainline design speeds equal to or less than 45 mph.

### 503.6.4 Superelevation at Terminals

Superelevation at ramp terminals should be developed using the following guidelines:

The rate of superelevation at the entrance and exit nose shall be selected on the basis of the design speed of the ramp at the nose.
All transverse changes or breaks in superelevation shall be made at joint lines (See Standard Construction Drawing BP-6.1). In the case of bituminous pavement, the superelevation breaks should occur in the same locations as they would in concrete pavement.

For High-Speed terminals, the transverse breaks in superelevation cross-slope shall not exceed a differential of 0.032 at the mainline edge of traveled way or 0.050 at other locations. If a double break occurs on longitudinal joints less than 6 ft. apart, it shall not exceed a total differential of 0.032, if adjacent to the mainline, or 0.050 elsewhere. On Low-Speed terminals the transverse breaks in superelevation cross-slope shall not exceed a differential of 0.05 to 0.06.

For High-Speed terminals, the rate of rotation of a superelevated ramp pavement or speed change lane pavement shall be in accordance with Section 202.4.

Where possible, the terminal area pavement and shoulder should slope away from the mainline pavement so that a minimum amount of water drains across the mainline pavement.

503.6.5 Terminals on Crest Vertical Curves

Mainline crest vertical curves in the vicinity of ramp terminals should be designed using decision stopping sight distances. When it is not feasible to provide decision stopping sight distance, at a minimum, 125% SSD (Figure 201-1) should be provided. Where a crest vertical curve occurs on an exit ramp at or near the nose, the crest vertical curve should be designed using the “upper range” design speeds of Figure 503-1.

503.7 Ramp At-Grade Intersections

Ramp at-grade intersections are designed using much of the same criteria as outlined in Section 401 (the normal design vehicle for Interstate ramps is the WB-62 [WB-19]). However, one of the basic differences is the one-way nature of ramps and the fact that most traffic at ramp intersections is turning. Figure 503-5 shows the design of a typical uncurbed ramp intersection. Curbed returns are normally used in urban areas where space is more restricted. Intersection Sight Distance, Section 201.3, should be provided at all ramp at-grade intersections.

Exit ramps may require multiple lanes at the crossroad intersection to provide additional storage and capacity. Figure 503-5a illustrates alternate ways to transition from a single lane exit ramp to two lanes. The additional lane is usually provided for the minor movement.

504 COLLECTOR - DISTRIBUTOR (C-D) ROADS

504.1 Use of C-D Roads

The reason for using C-D Roads is to minimize weaving problems and reduce the number of conflict points (merging and diverging) on the mainline. C-D Roads may be used within a single interchange, through two adjacent interchanges, or continuously through several interchanges.

504.2 Design of C-D Roads

When a C-D Road is provided between interchanges, a minimum of two lanes should be used. Either one or two lanes may be used on C-D Roads within a single interchange. The cross section elements for one and two lane C-D Roads should be in accordance with the one lane and two lane directional roadways
500 Interchange Design

shown in Figure 303-1. The design speed of a C-D Road should normally be the same as the mainline design speed but may be reduced by not more than 10 mph.

The separation between the mainline and C-D Road pavements should be designed to prevent, or at least discourage, indiscriminate crossovers. As a minimum, the separation should be wide enough to provide normal shoulder widths for both the mainline and C-D Road roadways plus a suitable median. Normally, a standard concrete barrier median is used since C-D Road separation often involves obstructions such as bridge parapets, piers or overhead sign supports. There may be isolated cases where a lesser type median may be used.

504.3 C-D Road Entrance and Exit Terminals

Figure 504-1 shows both Low-Speed and High-Speed C-D Road entrance terminals. Three exit terminal lane conditions are shown on Figure 504-2. These terminal designs are to be applied to highways using High-Speed exit terminals.

Superelevation at C-D Terminals shall be developed similar to that described in Section 503.6.4.

505 MULTI-LANE RAMP & ROADWAY TERMINALS AND TRANSITIONS

When two roadways converge or diverge, the less significant roadway should exit or enter on the right. Left-hand exits or entrances are contrary to driver expectancy and should be avoided wherever possible.

505.1 Multi-lane Entrance Ramps and Converging Roadways

505.1.1 General

Figure 505-1a shows the design to be used for multi-lane entrance ramps and converging roadways. Converging roadways are defined as separate and nearly parallel roadways or ramps which combine into a single continuous roadway or ramp having a greater number of lanes beyond the nose than the number of lanes on either approach roadway. (Single-Lane Entrance Terminals should be used in lieu of Converging Roadway drawings when a speed change lane is required.)

Figure 505-1b shows the specific design to be used for two-lane High-Speed entrance ramps.

High-Speed Converging Roadways should be used when either or both of the Converging Roadways are mainline roadways of an expressway or freeway or if the design speed of converging directional ramps is 50 mph or higher. Low-Speed Converging Roadways should be used at the convergence of directional ramps within an interchange or at the convergence of interchange ramps with non-limited access roads or streets where design speeds are 45 mph or lower.

505.1.2 Lane Balance and Continuity

In order to avoid inside merges, the number of mainline lanes plus converging lanes approaching the nose must be equal to the resultant number of lanes leaving the nose. To make this possible, it is often necessary to carry additional mainline lanes past the nose for an adequate distance prior to tapering back to the desired number of lanes. These details are shown in Figure 505-1a.

505.1.3 Inside Merges

When using a taper type of multilane entrance ramp an “inside merge” is created with traffic traveling on both sides of the merging lanes. If either vehicle involved with the merging movement abandons the
merge, traffic in the adjacent lanes could prevent the merging vehicles from escaping to the adjacent lanes. By contrast, the parallel type multilane entrance ramp, as shown in Figure 505-1a, allows the merging vehicle to escape to the right shoulder without any interference. For the above reasons, inside merges are not desirable.

505.1.4 Preferential Flow

On Figure 505-1a, one roadway in each design is labeled PREFERENTIAL FLOW. This indicates the more important of the two approaching traffic flows. In selecting the preferential flow a designer must consider the effect of traffic volumes, number of lanes, sign route continuity and importance, vehicle speeds and roadway alignment. Lanes carrying the preferential flow are given the higher design treatment. When it is necessary to reduce a number of converging lanes or where an angular change in direction must occur, the design should favor the preferential flow.

505.1.5 Horizontal Curvature

Horizontal curves of roadways approaching the terminal nose should conform to mainline roadway criteria in the case of mainline roadways and to ramp entrance terminal criteria in the case of ramps.

505.1.6 Crest Vertical Curves

Crest vertical curves on constant-width roadways approaching the merging nose should be designed to provide sight distance consistent with the design speed of the roadway.

Crest vertical curves from the merging nose forward to a point where pavement convergence ceases and to the converging portion of an approaching roadway where the number of lanes is being reduced in advance of the nose should be designed using the decision stopping sight distance shown in Figure 201-6. When it is not feasible to provide decision stopping sight distance, at a minimum, 125% SSD (Figure 201-1) should be provided.

When design speeds differ on approaching roadways, the higher of the two design speeds shall be used in designing the crest vertical curve beyond the merging nose.

505.1.7 Superelevation and Joint Location

Reference shall be made to Section 503.6.4 for superelevation requirements.

Longitudinal joints should be located so they will coincide with and define the lane lines. Reference should be made to Standard Construction Drawing BP-6.1 for type and location.

505.2 Multi-lane Exit Ramps and Diverging Roadways

505.2.1 General

Figure 505-2a shows the general design for multi-lane exit ramps and diverging roadways. A diverging roadway is defined as a single roadway which branches or forks into two separate roadways without the need of a speed change lane.

Figure 505-2b shows the specific designs to be used for a two-lane high-speed exit ramp at a system interchange or the exit from the mainline of a two-lane CD-Road. Type I should normally be used. Type II should only be used when queuing in the optional lane does not extend to the physical gore (long ramps, Parclo B, etc.).
500 Interchange Design

*Figure 505-2c* shows examples of designs for diverging roadways.

*Figure 505-2d* shows the specific designs to be used for a two-lane high-speed exit ramp at a service interchange. Type I should normally be used. Type II should only be used when queuing in the optional lane does not extend to the physical gore (long ramps, Parclo B, etc.).

High-Speed Diverging Roadways should be used when either or both the diverging roadways are mainline roadways of an expressway or freeway or at the divergence of high-speed directional ramps within an interchange. Low-Speed Diverging Roadways should be used at the divergence of low-speed directional ramps within an interchange or at the divergence of ramps with non-limited access roads or streets.

505.2.2 Lane Balance and Continuity

In order to have lane continuity, the number of mainline lanes leaving the diverging nose must be equal to the number of mainline lanes approaching the nose. The total number of lanes leaving the diverging nose (mainline lanes plus diverging lanes) must be one greater than the total number of lanes approaching the nose to obtain lane balance. The purpose for obtaining lane continuity and lane balance is to avoid a drop lane situation. See *Figures 505-2a* and *505-2b*.

It may be necessary to obtain this lane balance by adding additional lanes upstream from the diverging nose. The length of each additional lane should be 2,500 ft. and should be introduced using a 0 to 12 ft. taper with a length of 100 ft. as shown on *Figure 505-2b* for the approach roadway class and design speed.

There may be conditions off the mainline, such as on Collector-Distributor Roads or within interchanges, where lane balance and continuity is less important. In such cases, the non-mainline roadway design on *Figures 505-2a* and *505-2b* may be used.

505.2.3 Terminal Design

The design of diverging roadway terminals is determined by the class and the design speed of the approach roadway, and is based on the neutral gore length “L” and the nose width “N” (See *Figure 505-2a*).

Table A on *Figure 505-2a* lists length “L” and nose width “N” for various design speeds in diverging roadway classes. The “N” dimension should be exact, but the “L” dimensions may vary slightly from the Table A value.

505.2.4 Horizontal Curvature

Table B on *Figure 505-2a* lists recommended values for the curve differential between the outer edges of traveled way of diverging roadways. These values apply only when the alignment between the diverging nose and the PC of the diverging curvature is on tangent or simple curvature.

When compounded or spiral curvature is used in the diverging area, it will be necessary to design diverging roadway alignments individually to provide the proper “L” and “N” for the approach roadway Class and design speed.

505.2.5 Crest Vertical Curves
500 Interchange Design

When a diverging nose is located on a crest vertical curve, this vertical curve shall be designed using the design speed of the approach highway and decision stopping sight distance from Figure 201-6. When it is not feasible to provide decision stopping sight distance, at a minimum, 125% SSD (Figure 201-1) should be provided.

505.2.6 Superelevation and Joint Location

The superelevation rate will be based on the design speed of the approach roadway. Reference should be made to Section 503.6.4 for other superelevation requirements.

Longitudinal joints should be located so they will define the lane lines. Reference should be made to Standard Construction Drawing BP-6.1 for type and location. The joints in the gore area should be located to facilitate superelevation and pavement grading.

505.3 Four Lane Divided to Two Lane Transition

Figure 505-3 shows a reversed curve design (Types A and B) a tapered design (Type C) and a design for a transition on a curve (Type D). The pavement transition should be located in an area where it can easily be seen. Intersections or drives should be avoided in the transition area. Vertical or horizontal curves should provide decision stopping sight distance.

Reverse curve transitions should normally be used for median widths of 20 ft. or wider.

Taper lengths are calculated as shown in Section 401.6.1.

506 SERVICE ROADS

506.1 Use of Service Roads

Service roads (frontage roads) are used to enhance capacity on the mainline, control access, serve adjacent properties, or maintain traffic circulation. They permit development of adjacent properties while preserving the through character of the mainline roadway. Service roads may be either one-way or two-way, depending on where they are located and the purpose they are intended to serve.

506.2 Design of Service Roads

Although the alignment and profile of the mainline may have an influence, service roads are generally designed to meet the specific criteria based on functional classification (usually "local"), traffic volumes, terrain/locale and design speed. Two features, however, are unique to service roads and are further discussed below. They are (1) the separation between the service road and mainline and (2) the design of the crossroad connection.

The further the service road is located from the mainline, the less influence the two facilities will have on each other. A separation width that exceeds the clear zone measurement for each roadway is desirable. However, the separation should be at least wide enough to provide normal shoulder widths on each facility plus accommodate surface drainage and a suitable physical traffic barrier. Glare screen is desirable to screen headlights when the service road is two-way.

At crossroads, the distance between the mainline and service road becomes extremely critical. This distance should be great enough to provide adequate storage on the approaches to both the mainline and service road. The recommended minimum distance between the mainline and service road edges of traveled way is 150 ft. in urban areas and 300 ft. in rural areas. In addition, the designer should check
500 Interchange Design

the adequacy of stopping sight distance on the crossroad as well as intersection sight distance at the
frontage road.

Since service roads are normally maintained by local governmental agencies, the pavement design should
either meet, or exceed, that required by the maintaining agency.

550 REQUESTS FOR NEW OR REVISED ACCESS INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS
OR OTHER FREEWAYS

550.1 General

Control of access on the Interstate and other freeway systems is considered critical to providing the
highest quality of service in terms of safety and mobility. This section provides guidance for the
preparation and processing of access point requests in relation to new and existing interchanges on the
Interstate and other freeway systems in accordance to Federal Code 23 U.S.C. 111 and FHWA’s Policy on

The documentation required depends on the type of change requested - new or revised.

New Access is the addition of a point of access where none previously existed. This includes the
construction of an entirely new interchange such that it will result in additional points of access or
additional ramps to existing interchanges. As an example, the reconstruction of an existing diamond
interchange to a full cloverleaf interchange would add four new points of access.

Revised Access is the major revision of an existing interchange such that the number of access points will
remain the same but the operation and/or safety of the Interstate/freeway system may be affected. The
changing of a cloverleaf interchange to a fully directional interchange, the conversion of a traditional
diamond to a diverging diamond interchange, relocating an existing ramp to terminal to a new roadway,
and adding a collector-distributor system are all considered examples of revised points of access.

New or revised access point requests require the preparation and processing of an Access Point Request
Document. Generally, a new access requires an Interchange Justification Study (IJS) or an Interchange
Modification Study (IMS) . A revised access requires a n Interchange Modification Study (IMS) or an
Interchange Operations Study (IOS).

550.2 Interchange Study (Access Point Request Document)

The degree of complexity of the Interchange Study will vary depending on the character of the location
(urban or rural) and/or whether the change involves a revised access point, a new access point at an
existing interchange, or an entirely new interchange location. To coincide with FHWA’s Policy on Access
to the Interstate System, the following is a list of items which must be addressed in the interchange
study for a new or revised access on the Interstate/freeway system:

1. Evidence that the proposed new or revised access does not have significant adverse impact on
the safety and operation of the Interstate/freeway system. The analysis must address design year
traffic with and without the new or revised access point (build vs. no-build). Design year traffic
must reflect future land use changes and associated trip generations. Traffic projections must
be certified as per Section 102.1.

Requests involving new access points or revised access points must use 20 year design traffic
projected from the opening day of the interchange. Certified Traffic (High Risk Design Traffic
Forecasting Procedure) will be required for all projects involving an IMS or IJS, in accordance
with the most current version of the Ohio Traffic Forecasting Manual.
Traffic volumes for interchange studies that do not require High Risk Design Traffic (i.e. Certified Traffic), must be reviewed and approved by the District prior to the preparation of traffic analyses. Written documentation of the District’s approval of the Low Risk Design Traffic must be included in the interchange study report.

The level-of-service (LOS) of the Interstate/freeway system and the interchange components that are built new or modified should generally provide a LOS C, except certain cases in the MPO’s Boundary where LOS D may be acceptable.

The proposed Interstate/freeway interchange or improvements cannot have a significant adverse impact on the safety and operation of the Interstate/freeway facility based on an analysis of design year traffic.

The operational analysis shall, particularly in urban areas, include an analysis of sections of Interstate/freeway to and including at least the first adjacent existing or proposed upstream and downstream interchange. Crossroads and other roads and streets shall be included in the analysis to the extent necessary to assure their ability to collect and distribute traffic to and from the interchange with new or revised access points. New interchanges must include analysis of the local street system to the extent that local road system improvements can be compared as an alternative to constructing a new interchange. Maps and/or diagrams should be provided as needed to clearly describe the location and study limits of the proposal. All traffic analyses on ODOT projects must be prepared per the OATS Manual.

For requests involving entirely new interchanges, the study should include a discussion of the distance to, and size of, communities to be served by the new interchange. An examination of proper interchange spacing must also be included.

Every IMS/IJS should include a conceptual signing plan showing the type and location of signs to support the proposed design.

2. Assurance that the new or revised access connects to a public road and is part of a configuration that provides for all traffic movements. Less than “full interchanges” for special purpose access for transit vehicles, for HOV’s, or into park and ride lots may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Proposed design must meet or exceed current design standards.

In rare instances where all basic movements are not provided by the proposed design, the report must include a full-interchange option with a comparison of the operational and safety analyses to the partial-interchange option. The report must also include the mitigation proposed to compensate for the missing movements, including wayfinding signage, impacts on local intersections, mitigation of driver expectation leading to wrong-way movements on ramps, etc. The report must describe whether future provision of a full interchange is precluded by the proposed design.

The development of an Access Point Request Document should be performed in accordance with the ODOT Project Development Process (PDP). As part of the PDP for all projects that require an IJS/IMS, the relevant PDP submissions (including, but not limited to the Feasibility Study and Alternative Evaluation Report), will include consideration of the following points:

1. Adequate documentation that the existing access points and/or local roads are unable to handle the design year traffic demands while providing the access intended by the proposal, or be improved to do so, if the new or revised access is not provided. If the request involves a new access point, and particularly an interchange at a new location, a comprehensive description of
the public need for the access must be included. A justification based on enhanced property values or access to private facilities will not be accepted.

2. Assurance that all reasonable alternatives for design options, location, and transportation system management type improvements (such as ramp metering, mass transit, and HOV facilities) have been assessed and provided for if currently justified, or provisions are included for accommodating such facilities if a future need is identified.

3. The proposal considers and is consistent with local and regional land use and transportation plans. Prior to final approval, all requests for new or revised access must be consistent with the metropolitan and/or statewide transportation plan, as appropriate, the applicable provisions of 23 CFR part 450 and the transportation conformity requirements of 40 CFR parts 51 and 93.

The request should include a statement and analysis of compatibility with, and the effect on, the local road network. Letters of support and commitment are required from the State and other sponsoring agencies for any required street or road improvements as well as for the access point.

4. In areas where the potential exists for future multiple interchange additions, all requests for new or revised access are supported by a comprehensive Interstate/freeway network study with recommendations that address all proposed and desired access within the context of a long-term plan.

5. Evidence that the request for the new or revised access generated by new or expanded development demonstrates appropriate coordination between the development and the necessary transportation improvements. A discussion of potential funding sources, if known, should be included.

6. The request for new or revised access contains information relative to the planning requirements and the status of the environmental processing of the proposal.

As part of ODOT’s Project Development Process, the Office of Roadway Engineering is required to review and approve all Feasibility Studies and Alternative Evaluation Reports involving an Interchange Study (IJS/IMS/IOS). If the FS and/or AER involves an interchange, the study limits must encompass the applicable interchange study (IJS/IMS/IOS) limits.

The Office of Roadway Engineering will not review any Interchange Study (IJS/IMS/IOS) that:
1. Does not have an approved Purpose & Need (if applicable); or
2. Does not have appropriate study limits required to support the approved Purpose & Need; or
3. Has interchanges that ORE did not review and approve in the Feasibility Study and Alternative Evaluation Report (if applicable)

The Access Point Request Document should only be performed for the preferred alternative, however a discussion of feasible alternatives should also be included in the study. The preferred alternative will comply to all State and FHWA design requirements, including but not limited to: interchange spacing, interchanges to provide for all traffic movements to and from the freeway, not allowing lanes to drop into private facilities, not allowing intersections (driveways or streets) to intersect ramps (except in special cases such as facilities for utilities

Interchange Modification and Justification Studies (IMS & IJS) are required to reference and describe how each policy point in FHWA’s Policy on Access to the Interstate System is being met (link to latest policy: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/design/interstate/170522.cfm).

All IJS or IMS documents should follow the Report Format/Outline found in the Traffic Academy Interchange Studies (IJS/IMS/IOS) Course Manual. The Interchange Studies Course Manual can be found
A reevaluation of the IJS/IMS may be required by FHWA if the project or a phase of the project has not progressed to construction within 3 years of the approval date of the document.

An IJS/IMS Addendum is required if any of the following condition(s) apply:

1. A Revised-Build condition is proposed that is different than the Build condition (per the approved IJS/IMS) and is not an Interim-Build condition (a phased condition between the No-Build condition and Build condition, per the approved IJS/IMS).

See Section 550.2.1 if your project does not meet the condition(s) listed above. Contact The Office of Roadway Engineering.

550.2.1 Interchange Operations Study (IOS)

Many minor interchange projects, especially those involving service interchanges, do not fall under the definition of warranting an Access Point Request Document (IJS/IMS) per the FHWA’s Policy on Access to the Interstate System, but still require an operational evaluation and approval by the Office of Roadway Engineering. This operational evaluation would be in the form of a report referred to as the Interchange Operations Study, IOS. The IOS is intended to be an abbreviated version of the more comprehensive IMS report, highlighting critical traffic operations that may be affected by the proposed improvement. The IOS will utilize the same analysis methodology and 20 yr. design as the IMS, but the IOS will be more limited with respect to the number of analysis points evaluated and the study narrative. For an IOS, Certified Traffic is typically not required. Instead, the Low Risk Design Traffic Forecasting Procedure, per the Ohio Traffic Forecasting Manual, is considered acceptable. Certified Traffic is required when thru lanes on the freeway/crossroad are increased or decreased. In urban areas with significant congestion and oversaturated conditions, coordinate with the Office of Modeling & Forecasting to discuss if Certified Traffic is needed to capture the full demand volumes. An IOS can be applied to an Interstate or non-Interstate. All traffic analyses on ODOT projects must be prepared per the OATS Manual.

The following is a list of projects, including, but not limited to, that require an IOS:

1. Changing lane configurations at a ramp intersection approach, including:
   - Adding/removing a left, thru, or right turn lane along a crossroad
   - Adding/removing turn lanes to the exit ramp
   - Changing lane assignments without altering the number of lanes
     a. Example: Changing a 2-lane approach from a (Left/Thru-Right) to (Left-Thru/Right)
     b. Implementing a Road Diet (reducing the number of lanes on the crossroad)
     c. “Squaring” up a continuous right turn to/from the ramp/crossroad
     d. Converting a “squared” right turn to/from ramp/crossroad to a slip ramp
2. Changing the exit or entrance ramp terminus point with the freeway mainline by:
3. Adding/removing an optional exit lane
4. Adding/reducing exit lanes
5. Adding/reducing entrance lanes
6. Shifting a ramp’s location within the same interchange configuration
7. Changing traffic control type at a ramp/crossroad intersection from a signalized/unsignalized condition to a roundabout
8. Adding an auxiliary lane between 2 adjacent ramp interchange ramps

The Office of Roadway Engineering has established the Study Area of an IOS for various conditions. This information can be found in the Traffic Academy, Interchange Studies Course Manual. Note, that
500 Interchange Design

although most projects follow these study limits, the limits can be expanded or reduced with the approval of the Office of Roadway Engineering.

An IOS cannot be considered for: A) Major interchange design/revisions; B) New interchanges; or C) Interchange modifications necessitated by large developments or conditions that will significantly increase traffic volumes or revise traffic patterns.

For all other interchange or mainline modifications that result in significant operational changes, not covered above or by an Interchange Modification Study, please contact the Office of Roadway Engineering.

An IOS may be required if an interim (phased) condition does not match the approved build condition in the IJS/IMS. Contact the Office of Roadway Engineering for further guidance.

A reevaluation of the IOS may be required by ODOT if the project or a phase of the project has not progressed to construction within 3 years of the approval date of the document.

550.2.2 Safety Improvements on Interstate or Other Freeways

Safety improvements eligible for this process are defined as low to medium cost solutions that address an identified “spot” safety problem. The LOS provisions of Section 550.2 do not apply except that the LOS should not be significantly impacted over the no-build condition in the design year. All other provisions of 550.2 still apply, including the IMS or IOS report to support the analyses. To determine the impacts, the individual operational components must be analyzed and evaluated for acceptance within the context of the overall affected system. Though a single operational component could experience worsened operations, the overall system should improve or essentially remain the same. For a safety improvement to qualify under this section, the following criteria must be met:

1. The project purpose and need is primarily to address “spot” safety problems. The purpose and need may not include operational performance or economic development objectives.
2. The location has separate independent utility from all other improvements.
3. Any potential longer term solution which would provide LOS C would take 5 or more years to implement.
4. No major rehabilitation or reconstruction is planned for 5 or more years. Other work (e.g., routine maintenance or minor rehabilitation) may be done within the 5 year window as long as it does not substantially replace the base pavement and/or reconfigure the facility.
5. The location is a spot location (defined as a ramp, intersection, merge/diverge point, weave, or mainline section not to exceed one mile).
6. The location planning level cost estimate is less than $5 million total (low to medium cost measures) for all phases of project development (i.e. preliminary engineering, detail design, right of way and construction).

550.3 Holistic Methodology for Operational Analysis

One of the primary objectives of an interchange study is to substantiate that the proposed change does not have a significant adverse impact on the safety or operation of the freeway facility, local street network, or other elements of the transportation system. Per the ODOT Analysis and Traffic Simulation (OATS) manual, HCS or TransModeler must be used to analyze the operational impacts from the proposed changes. Whether an analyst is utilizing the HCS Freeway Facility module or TransModeler, performance measures for each of the individual segments within the facility are computed and these measures can be impacted by the operations of adjacent segments. When a project relieves an operational bottleneck, the improved traffic flow could cause negative impacts on the operations of the downstream
segments. If the operations in some of the segments are expected to be made worse, the proposed project may still be approved if it offers overall benefits to the network. All segments should meet the operational goals outlined in Figure 301-1, to the maximum extent feasible. See Section 106 for Safety Analysis requirements.

The most common measure of effectiveness used to assess the performance of freeways and intersections is the level of service (LOS). LOS is determined by the density for freeways and the delay for intersections. LOS results are required as a minimum for all analyses performed on ODOT projects. Typically, these results will clearly show an overall benefit and are sufficient for determining if a project improves the facility. If it is difficult to determine if the project is an improvement to the overall network based on LOS, additional measures of effectiveness may need to be reported. Some additional measures of effectiveness that can be utilized to determine if the project is an overall improvement could include, but are not limited to: average speed, average travel time, vehicle-miles traveled, and vehicle-hours of travel. The additional measures of effectiveness selected must support the purpose and need of the project. To be useful, they must ultimately provide information that can be used to make investment and management decisions. Analysts should refer to the OATS manual for additional information on measures of effectiveness.

550.4 Submission of Interchange Studies

The District must submit all request submissions to the Office of Roadway Engineering (electronic copy). The Office of Roadway Engineering will be responsible for coordination with the Federal Highway Administration for studies involving the Interstate System.

All traffic analysis files must be submitted (see the OATS for submission requirements).

550.5 Review of Interchange Studies

For Interstates, the Office of Roadway Engineering will review and approve the Access Point Request Document (IJS or IMS), and if acceptable, will forward the request to FHWA for their approval. If the environmental document has not been completed, approval will be conditional on acceptance of the environmental document.

For Access Point Request Documents (IJS or IMS) involving non-Interstate freeways, the Office of Roadway Engineering will review the study and has approval authority.

For Interchange Operations Studies, the Office of Roadway Engineering will review and has approval authority. As a courtesy, all IOS submissions involving the Interstate will be made available electronically to FHWA.
**LIST OF FIGURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>503-1</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
<td>Ramp Design Speed Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-1a</td>
<td>07/2012</td>
<td>Minimum Ramp terminal Spacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-2a</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
<td>Minimum Acceleration Lengths for High-Speed Entrance Terminals with Flat Grades of 2% or Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-2b</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
<td>High-Speed Entrance terminal Adjustment Factors as a Function of Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-2c</td>
<td>07/2012</td>
<td>High-Speed Single-Lane Entrance Terminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-3a</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
<td>Minimum Deceleration Lengths for High-Speed Exit Terminals with Flat Grades of 2% or Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-3b</td>
<td>10/2004</td>
<td>High-Speed Exit Terminal Adjustment Factors as a Function of Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-3c</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
<td>High-Speed Single-Lane Exit Terminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-4a</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>Low-Speed Entrance Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-4b</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>Low-Speed Exit Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-5</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>Notes for Low-Speed Entrance and Exit Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503-5a</td>
<td>10/2004</td>
<td>Transition From Single Lane to Two-Lane Exit Ramp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504-1</td>
<td>01/2005</td>
<td>Collector-Distributor Entrance Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504-2</td>
<td>10/2004</td>
<td>Collector-Distributor Exit Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-1a</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>Multi-Lane Entrance Ramps and Converging Roadways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-1b</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>High-Speed Two-Lane Entrance Terminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-2a</td>
<td>01/2015</td>
<td>Multi-Lane Exit Ramps and Diverging Roadways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-2b</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>High-Speed Two-Lane Exit Terminals for System Interchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-2c</td>
<td>10/2004</td>
<td>Examples of Diverging Roadways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-2d</td>
<td>07/2018</td>
<td>High-Speed Two-Lane Exit Terminals for Service Interchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505-3</td>
<td>04/2006</td>
<td>Transitions - Four Lane Divided Roadway to Two Lane Roadways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMP DESIGN SPEED (mph)</td>
<td>MAINLINE DESIGN SPEED (mph)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPPER RANGE</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE RANGE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWER RANGE</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ramp design speeds do not pertain to the ramp terminals.
ENTRANCE-ENTRANCE OR EXIT-EXIT | EXIT-ENTRANCE | TURNING ROADWAYS | ENTRANCE-EXIT (WEAVING)
--- | --- | --- | ---

MINIMUM LENGTHS MEASURED BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE RAMP TERMINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FULL FREEWAY</th>
<th>CDR OR FDR</th>
<th>FULL FREEWAY</th>
<th>CDR OR FDR</th>
<th>SYSTEM INTER-CHANGE</th>
<th>SERVICE INTER-CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000 ft</td>
<td>800 ft</td>
<td>500 ft</td>
<td>400 ft</td>
<td>800 ft</td>
<td>600 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 ft</td>
<td>1600 ft</td>
<td>1600 ft</td>
<td>1000 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

- CDR - COLLECTOR DISTRIBUTOR ROAD
- FDR - FREEWAY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

The recommendations are based on operational experience and need for flexibility and adequate signing. They should be checked in accordance with the procedure outlined in the **Highway Capacity Manual (HCM)**. Also refer to the HCM for the procedure for measuring the length of the weaving section. The "L" distances noted in the figures above are measured between the painted noses (theoretical gore point). Additionally for EN-EN, a minimum distance of 300 ft. is recommended between the end of the taper for the first entrance ramp and the painted nose for the succeeding entrance ramp (similar for EX-EX except use the physical nose).
### Minimum Acceleration Lengths

**For High-Speed Entrance Terminals With Flat Grades of 2% or Less**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainline Design Speed, V (mph)</th>
<th>Acceleration Length, L (ft) for design Speed of Last Ramp Curve, Vr (mph)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>1410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>1620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>1790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mainline Design Speed (V)

![Diagram showing Mainline Design Speed, Last Ramp Curve, 50:1 Taper, and Acceleration Length, L (ft) with notation: **The Acceleration Length, L, shall be adjusted for Grade with Figure 503-2b.**

October 2004
### HIGH-SPEED ENTRANCE TERMINAL

**ADJUSTMENT FACTORS AS A FUNCTION OF GRADE**

**503-2b**

**REFERENCE SECTION 503.6.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainline Design Speed, $V$ (mph)</th>
<th>Ratio of Length On Grade to Length On Level for Design Speed of Last Ramp Curve, $V_r$ (mph)*</th>
<th>3 to 4% upgrade</th>
<th>5 to 6% upgrade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 25 30 35 40 45 50</td>
<td>20 25 30 35 40 45 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1.30 1.35 1.40 1.40 1.40 - -</td>
<td>3 to 4% downgrade</td>
<td>5 to 6% downgrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>1.35 1.40 1.45 1.45 1.45 - -</td>
<td>0.650</td>
<td>0.625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>1.40 1.45 1.50 1.50 1.55 1.60</td>
<td>0.600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>1.45 1.50 1.55 1.60 1.65 1.70</td>
<td>0.600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>1.50 1.55 1.60 1.65 1.70 1.75</td>
<td>0.600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* No adjustment required for Grades less than 3%.

* Ratio from this table multiplied by acceleration length in Figure 503-2a gives acceleration length on grade.

The "grade" in the table is the Average Grade measured over the distance for which the Acceleration Length applies.

For Mainline Design Speeds greater than 70 mph, use 70 mph design speed Adjustment Factors.
Notes For Single Lane Entrance Terminals

1. The minimum Acceleration Length, L, shall be Ls + Lt.

2. The 9' to 23' variable width of Treated Shoulder of the Entrance Terminal shall be sloped for 12' as required for mainline design (usually 1/2 in./ft.), except for the last 100' to 200' at the 9' end, which is to be sloped as required for proper terminal grading.

3. Normally Single Lane Ramps will have a Width of 16'. The Width shall be increased to 18' when the Ramp Radius is less than 200'. When an 18' wide ramp is used, the 25' Entrance Terminal Width shall be retained and the 9' width reduced by 2'.

4. If Lp (Parallel Length) is not required (L <= 850'), then the 200' minimum Spiral should be tangent to the 50:1 Taper.

5. If the Entrance Terminal results in an add-lane (no merge), delete the last 600' of the 50:1 Taper.
**MINIMUM DECELERATION LENGTHS FOR HIGH-SPEED EXIT TERMINALS WITH FLAT GRADES OF 2% OR LESS**

### 503-3a

#### REFERENCE SECTION

503.6.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainline Design Speed, V (mph)</th>
<th>Deceleration Length, L (ft) for Design Speed of First Ramp Curve, Vr (mph) ***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**P.C.C. Or Mid-Point of 200' Spiral**

**The minimum Deceleration Length, L, after Adjustment For Grade (Figure 503-3b), shall be 800'**

**Or other Design Speed limiting Geometric Control such as the Stopping Sight Distance for a Vertical Curve or the back of a Traffic Queue.**

October 2004
**HIGH-SPEED EXIT TERMINAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS AS A FUNCTION OF GRADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainline Design Speed, V (mph)</th>
<th>Ratio of Length On Grade to Length On Level for Design Speed of First Ramp Curve, Vr (mph) *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Speeds</td>
<td>All Speeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 4% upgrade</td>
<td>3 to 4% downgrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Speeds</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 6% upgrade</td>
<td>5 to 6% downgrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Speeds</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No adjustment required for Grades less than 3%.

* Ratio from this table multiplied by Deceleration Length in Figure 503-3a gives Deceleration Length On Grade.

The "grade" in the table is the Average Grade measured over the distance for which the Deceleration Length applies.
Notes for High-Speed Single-Lane Exit Terminals

1. The Exit Curve should normally be according to the Exit Curve Table where the mainline is on tangent. Where the mainline is on curving alignment, the maximum differential between the Exit Curve and the mainline curve should normally be the Exit Curve Table value. This differential, however, may vary by as much as one degree in order to avoid a tangent exit alignment. (See Section 503.6.4 for the allowable Transverse Breaks in Superelevation Cross-Slope.)

2. When the First Ramp Curve does not exceed 8°, the Exit Curve may be compounded directly with the First Ramp Curve at a PCC 100' beyond the nose. When the First Ramp Curve does exceed 8°, a spiral should be placed between the Exit Curve and the First Ramp Curve and the beginning of the spiral (CS) should be at the nose.

3. Normally Single Lane Ramps will have a Width of 16'. The Width shall be increased to 18' when the Ramp Radius is less than 200'. When an 18' wide ramp is used, the 39' Exit Terminal Width shall be retained and the 23' width reduced by 2'.
**LOW-SPEED ENTRANCE TERMINALS**

For Notes, see adjacent sheet.

**TYPE A**

(See Note C-1)

* Reduce to 2' for Ramp Width 18'.

See Note D.

**TYPE B**

Combined Acceleration-Deceleration Lane Shown

(See Note C-1)

**LOW-SPEED ENTRANCE TERMINALS**

For Notes, see adjacent sheet.
LOW-SPEED EXIT TERMINAL

For Notes, see adjacent sheet.
Notes for Low-Speed Entrance and Exit Terminals

Figures 503-4a and 503-4b.

A. GENERAL
1. Low-Speed Terminals are intended for use on highways which have little or no access control except through an interchange area. Many of the features of Low-Speed Terminals are applicable to a terminal of one ramp with another ramp in a freeway interchange.

B. EXIT TERMINAL
1. The curve differential between the through roadway and exit curve DC1 may vary from a minimum of 4° to the maximum of 8°.
2. Exit Curve D, may be compounded or spiraled into Ramp Curve DC2. If DC2 is greater than 25° then provide a 150 ft. spiral between DC1 and DC2.

C. ENTRANCE TERMINAL: TYPE A & TYPE B
1. Type A is preferred and shall normally be used. However, when a ramp enters as an added lane or as a combined acceleration-deceleration lane, Type B may be used if its use would result in a substantial savings in cost (i.e. reduced bridge width).
2. The acceleration lane of Type A shall be a uniform 35:1 taper relative to the through edge of traveled way for either tangent or curving alignment.
3. The curve differential between the through roadway and entrance curve DC5 of Type B shall be 4°.
4. The design of the entrance terminal curvature shall be based on the following:
   i. Ramp Curve DC3 of 8° or less

When the through roadway tangent or a curve to the right, DC4 shall be a 150 ft. long simple curve of a degree such that the differential between it and the through roadway will not exceed 4°. When the through roadway is on a curve to the left, a 150 ft. tangent shall be substituted for DC4.

   ii. Ramp Curve DC3 greater than 8°

A 150 ft. spiral may be substituted for DC3.

D. RAMP WIDTH
1. Normally single lane ramps will have a width of 16 ft. The width shall be increased to 18 ft. when the ramp radius is less than 200 ft. When an 18 ft. wide ramp is used, the 35 ft. exit and 20 ft. entrance terminal widths shall be retained and the 19 ft. and 4 ft. widths reduced by 2 ft.

E. TREATED SHOULDER
1. The treated shoulder along the speed change lanes shall be shown on Figure 303-1.
2. If the ramp or through roadway has a curb offset greater than 6 ft. (or 3 ft.), the greater width shall be used at the terminal. Retain the 19 ft. width.
3. The Special Detail drawings shall apply when the through roadway is curbed.
Notes:
1. When the Angle of the Turn into the "ON" Ramp is 100° or greater, reduce the 60' Radius to 50'.
2. These points should be at the same centerline station of the crossroad.
3. Where the Ramps intersect a Divided Highway, the Median Opening should be designed to discourage improper turns into the "OFF" Ramps.
4. The 25' Radius and 10:1 Taper may need to be slightly adjusted if the Intersection Angle of the Ramp is less than 90° (verify with turn template software).
5. All of the turn movements at the intersection are to be analyzed with turning template software and the designated design vehicle.
LANE TO TWO-LANE EXIT RAMP

ALTERNATE A

\[
\text{Deceleration Length, } L \text{ (Figure 503-3a)}
\]
\[
\text{Adjusted To Grade (Figure 503-3b)}
\]
\[
\text{Minimum Length} = 800' \]

ALTERNATE B

\[
\text{Deceleration Length, } L \text{ (Figure 503-3a)}
\]
\[
\text{Adjusted To Grade (Figure 503-3b)}
\]
\[
\text{Minimum Length} = 800' \]

* See Figure 401-9 and 401-10 to compute the length.

Note: The additional lane is usually provided for the minor movement.
**Use High-Speed Entrance Terminal Criteria**

HIGH-SPEED COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR ENTRANCE TERMINAL
DESIGN SPEED \( \geq 50 \) MPH

**Use Shoulder Widths from either Figure 301-3 or Figure 301-4.

** Use Single-Lane Entrance Terminal Criteria, For 2 Or More Lanes Use Multi-Lane Entrance Terminal Criteria

** Use Low-Speed Entrance Terminal Criteria

LOW-SPEED COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR ENTRANCE TERMINAL
DESIGN SPEED \(< 50\) MPH
* Distance to first ramp exit nose 600' minimum with 1000' desirable especially for two or more lane C-D roads

** Or as required for superelevation transitions

*** Width determined by type of C-D separation chosen
See Figure 503-2c or 503-4a for terminal details.

### Table A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Speed (mph)</th>
<th>Taper Rate</th>
<th>High-Speed</th>
<th>Low-Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>50:1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>50:1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>50:1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>50:1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>35:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>35:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>35:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note A:**
- Vertical alignment of both the mainline and the ramp should provide Decision Sight Distance, Avoidance Maneuver C or E, as per Figure 201-6.

**See Table A**

**See Note A**

**See Figure 503-2c or 503-4a for terminal details.**

---

**TWO-LANE ROADWAY REDUCED TO SINGLE LANE PRIOR TO ENTRANCE NOSE**

**SINGLE LANE CONVERGING WITH MULTI-LANE**

* Note: the number of lanes leaving the entrance nose must be equal to the total number of lanes (converging plus mainline) approaching the entrance nose.

**MULTI-LANE CONVERGING WITH MULTI-LANE**

**Detail for dropping each converging lane**
Vertical alignment of both the mainline and the ramp should provide Decision Sight Distance, Avoidance Maneuver C or E, as per Figure 201-6.

Note A: Additional lane provided to satisfy lane-balance. The Add-Lane may be a basic lane if needed for capacity or an auxiliary lane and dropped either as shown below or at the next interchange.
### Table A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Speed, &quot;V&quot; (mph)</th>
<th>&quot;L&quot; (ft.)</th>
<th>&quot;N&quot; (ft.)</th>
<th>&quot;N&quot; (ft.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-Speed Rural</td>
<td>Low Speed Rural</td>
<td>Low Speed Urban</td>
<td>Low Speed Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* "N" dimension includes 4' of a 16' lane

### Table B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Speed of Approaching Roadway &quot;V&quot; (mph)</th>
<th>DIVERGING CURVATURE Total Lanes Beyond Diverging Nose Equals</th>
<th>Approach Lanes</th>
<th>Approach Lanes +1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-Speed Rural</td>
<td>Low Speed Rural</td>
<td>Low Speed Urban</td>
<td>Low Speed Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>0'- 45'</td>
<td>0'- 45'</td>
<td>0'- 25'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>1'- 00'</td>
<td>1'- 00'</td>
<td>0'- 30'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>1'- 15'</td>
<td>1'- 15'</td>
<td>0'- 35'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>1'- 30'</td>
<td>1'- 30'</td>
<td>0'- 40'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>1'- 45'</td>
<td>1'- 45'</td>
<td>0'- 45'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>2'- 00'</td>
<td>2'- 00'</td>
<td>1'- 00'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>4'- 15'</td>
<td></td>
<td>1'- 45'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>5'- 30'</td>
<td></td>
<td>2'- 15'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>7'- 00'</td>
<td></td>
<td>2'- 45'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>10'- 00'</td>
<td></td>
<td>3'- 30'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

△ Based on a Design Speed equal to ("V" - 10 mph)

**Note A:** Any lane combination can be designed from Table A and Typicals A and B by adding one or more lanes to one or both sides of Typical A or adding one or more lanes to both sides of Typical B.

**Note B:** When a 16 foot lane width is used after the diverging nose, the nose width "N" includes 4 feet of the 16 foot lane width. For two 16 foot lanes, "N" includes 4 feet of each lane.

January 2015
EQUALS THE NUMBER OF APPROACH LANES

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LANES BEYOND THE NOSE EQUALS THE NUMBER OF APPROACH LANES PLUS ONE

Each additional diverging roadway lane must be developed as shown

Mainline Design Speed, V mph

L - Gore Length
Table A Figure 505-2a

N - Nose Width
Table A Figure 505-2a

For Diverging Curvature
See Table B Figure 505-2a

For System Interchanges

July 2018
EXAMPLES OF DIVERGING ROADWAYS

High-Speed (Urban) - 1 Lane Ramp to 1 Lane Left and 1 Lane Right

* The maximum differential between diverging curvatures should not exceed the values in Table B of Figure 505-2a.

High-Speed (Urban) - 2 Lane Ramp to 1 Lane Left and 1 Lane Right

Mainline Design Speed = 70 mph

High-Speed (Rural) - 4 Lanes to 3-Lanes Left and 2-Lanes Right

Design Speed = 60 mph

High-Speed (Urban) - 2 Lane Ramp or CD-Road to 2 Lanes Left and 1 Lane Right

October 2004
Each additional diverging roadway lane must be developed as shown.

**TYPE I**

**TWO-LANE EXIT TERMINAL FOR USE ON ALL FACILITIES**

*Note: The 1500' distance is a minimum. The Length may need to be increased based on the expected queue from traffic analysis.*

EQUALS THE NUMBER OF APPROACH LANES PLUS ONE

**TYPE II**

**TWO-LANE EXIT TERMINAL LIMITED USE, SEE NOTE***

*Note: This type of exit terminal is discouraged in congested corridors. Traffic analysis operations must show queuing of ramp vehicles will be contained within the ramp and not extend past the physical nose.*

See Figure 503-3c for Ramp Development

See Exit Curve Table of Figure 503-3c for Diverging Curvature

* See Table B Figure 505-2a for Diverging Curvature

* See Figure 503-3c for Ramp Development

## Reference Section 505.2

### High-Speed Two-Lane Exit Terminals for Service Interchanges

**505-2d**

July 2018

Thru Lanes

Mainline Design Speed, V mph

Diverging Nose

For Diverging Curvature

See Exit Curve Table of Figure 503-3c

For Ramp Development

See Figure 503-3c

23'

Each additional diverging roadway lane must be developed as shown.

For Diverging Curvature

See Table B Figure 505-2a

For Ramp Development

See Figure 503-3c

* Note: This type of exit terminal is discouraged in congested corridors. Traffic analysis operations must show queuing of ramp vehicles will be contained within the ramp and not extend past the physical nose.
Refer to OMUTCD for paint striping details.

Length.
See Section 401.6.1 to determine Taper Rate.

Notes:
- **See Figure 505-1a Table A for Minimum Lane Reduction Taper Rate.
- ** Refer to OMUTCD for paint striping details.
- *** See Section 401.6.1 to determine Taper Length.