

1 **Utilities**

2 Tom Swafford presented utilities responsibilities on "City Streets that are part of State Highways" at
3 the fall APWA Conference in Spokane. He explained that although cities have utility permitting
4 authority, WSDOT has responsibility for the pavement on these streets. He encouraged city public
5 works officials to coordinate their utility installation requests with the region utilities offices.
6

7 Tom Swafford attended the "Intermountain Utility Engineers Meeting" that included DOT
8 representatives from South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. Ideas and
9 best practices were shared in dealing with Utilities and Railroads. Highlights were: Field
10 demonstration of latest technology in underground utility locating, WSDOT Utility Cost Recovery
11 Practice, Innovative ways in working with BNSF to meet DOT project schedules, incentive and
12 disincentives for utilities on Design-Build projects and plans reading courses for utilities personnel.
13

14 **Railroads**

15 On October 18, Ahmer Nizam participated in a meeting of the Transportation Research Board's
16 Strategic Highway Research Program that focused on improving coordination between Class 1
17 railroad companies and State DOTs. Many states face the same difficulties as they design and
18 construct highway projects across railroad property and railroad public projects managers often find it
19 difficult to meet the needs of states while operating within their complex organizational structures.
20 This group represents one of the first concerted efforts to bring representatives from various State
21 DOTs, Class 1 railroads, Federal Highways, and the Federal Railroad Administration together to
22 identify problem areas and to propose initiatives that will improve these often contentious business
23 relationships. The next step involves a detailed research phase (to be conducted by a contractor)
24 that was developed by the group.
25

26 **Agreements**

27 Rich Gleckler and Art Veach presented at the Fall Statewide Agreements meeting in Tumwater,
28 October 23rd and 24th. Issues considered were Information Technology and Intelligent Transportation
29 Systems, Records Retention, Trail Leases, and contract clauses. Positive Progress reports were
30 were given by the Agreements Manual Chapter committee chairs on development of the revised
31 manual.
32

33 **Design Policy**

34 The Design Policy Team maintains the WSDOT *Design Manual*. Reporting to Dave Olson,
35 the Team consists of Chris Schroedel, Ted Focke, Jim Klinck, Sharon Dana, and Becky
36 Nichols. Updates to the *Design Manual* are typically published twice yearly. We coordinate
37 these manual revisions with the Engineering Publications Office and Printing Services.
38

39 The following chapter revisions are on track be distributed in late November 2007.
40

41 **Policy Revisions**

42 Chapter 110 – Design-Build Projects: This new chapter emphasizes that the *Design Manual*
43 and documentation requirements apply to design-build projects. A general discussion on
44 design-build projects is presented, with references to contract documents such as the project
45 RFP. A few terms that occur throughout the manual are defined (*designer* and *project*
46 *engineer*) with design-build terms to be substituted where these are encountered in the
47 manual. Figure 110-1 illustrates the design-build project sequence with documentation
48 milestones shown.
49

50 Chapter 330 – Design Documentation, Approval, and Process Review: To coincide with the
51 new Chapter 110, statements have been added to Sections 330.08 Design Approval and
52 330.09 Project Development Approval related to design-build projects and WSDOT's design
53 milestones. This revision also clarifies that the online DVIS (Design Variance Inventory
54 System) is for use by WSDOT staff only.

1
2 Chapter 430 – Modified Design Level: 430.03(4), Superelevation, revised to 2004 AASHTO
3 values and to allow ball bank analysis. This is associated to the larger revision in Ch 642.
4
5 Chapter 510 – Soils, Rock, and Surfacing Materials: This chapter has been updated by the
6 Geotechnical Division to coincide with the *Geotechnical Design Manual*. This chapter
7 emphasizes early and continuous coordination between the designer and that specialty
8 group.
9
10 Chapter 520 – Design of Pavement Structure: Updated to refer the designer to the WSDOT
11 Pavement Policy.
12
13 Chapter 642 – Superelevation: Revised to 2004 AASHTO values and clarifies the selection
14 of the superelevation chart.
15
16 Chapter 820 – Signing: Provides the designer guidance on signing requirements for
17 highways and other facilities to enhance safety and guidance for drivers, pedestrians and
18 bicyclists. 820 was rewritten to incorporate *Design Manual Supplement Overhead Sign*
19 *Illumination* into the chapter and retire the supplement.
20
21 Chapter 840 – Illumination: 840 provides the designer guidance on illumination requirements
22 and to enhance safety and visibility. 840 was rewritten to reflect the current requirements of
23 the National Electrical Code (NEC) and highway design, to correct inconsistencies revealed
24 in WSDOT Illumination training and to incorporate *Design Manual Supplement Overhead*
25 *Sign Illumination*.
26
27 Chapter 910 – Intersections At Grade: Revised guidance in this chapter: requires the State
28 Traffic Engineer’s approval for new rural expressway intersections; changes to sight distance
29 requirements including: new intersections located where stopping sight distance exists,
30 provide stopping sight distance to sidewalks at crosswalks, removes 2 seconds from the t_0
31 factor; added intersection configurations; and added nongeometric considerations.
32
33 Chapter 1435 – Managed Access: 1435 provides designers guidance on access
34 requirements and to enhance safety and access. 1435 was rewritten to bring the chapter
35 current (it was last revised in 2003) and to provide statewide consistency regarding
36 managed access.
37
38 **Additional Chapter Revisions**
39 In addition to the above noted chapters containing policy revisions, the November 2007
40 package will contain other chapters with minor corrections and cosmetic changes made to
41 them.
42
43 **New Look to the Design Manual**
44 *Design Manual* holders will notice a new layout beginning this cycle, with text presented in a
45 single column on the page. We’re working with Engineering Publications with a goal to make
46 all WSDOT technical manuals more consistent in appearance. Changing from double to
47 single column layout will make using the online *Design Manual* much easier. This
48 changeover will be accomplished over two or three revision cycles.
49
50 The *Design Manual* may be shifting to two volumes in the future, beginning with the revision
51 package for May 2008.
52

1 **Coordinating with Other WSDOT Manuals**

2 We work closely with the Engineering Publications office in our efforts to coordinate
3 WSDOT's suite of technical manuals that come into play to deliver a WSDOT project. A
4 committee of manual owners is convening in November to define and address issues
5 important to the group. A list of potential topics to get us started includes:
6

- 7 • Discover if there is enough interest among the manual authors to come together to
8 try to develop some standards across the manuals
9
- 10 • Word usage, capitalization, how to reference other manuals
11
- 12 • Ensuring that content is not duplicated
13
- 14 • Applying Plain Talk, etc.
15
- 16 • Another purpose that will probably come out is the discussion of resources to help
17 with the writing and preparation of manuals. Do we know which information is used
18 the most?
19
- 20 • Are there things we can eliminate or streamline?
21
- 22 • Would a unified approach help us?
23
- 24 • Determine if quarterly meetings will be beneficial to us.
25

26 Check out the Engineering Publications online library page to get an idea of the many
27 manuals used at WSDOT: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/fasc/EngineeringPublications/library.htm>