

Abbreviations***CEA***

Community Enhancement Area

IVM

Integrated Vegetation Management

OSC

Olympia Service Center, WSDOT

RCP

Roadside Classification Plan

RMP

Roadside Master Plan

WSDOT

Washington State Department of Transportation

Definitions***Auxiliary Facilities***

Roadway user facilities located within the WSDOT right of way, including rest areas, roadside parks, viewpoints, historic and interpretive markers, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, wetland mitigation areas, park and ride lots, and maintenance facilities adjacent to the roadway. Auxiliary facilities are included in the definition of roadside.

Blend

To combine adjacent elements in a way that creates a balanced, visually harmonious landscape. A roadside treatment strategy that integrates roadside elements to preserve roadside character continuity.

Built Character

A roadside character category indicating a landscape in which human elements and structures are notable or predominant in the overall context. Built character includes the rural, semiurban, and urban roadside character classifications.

Community Enhancement Area (CEA)

Any of three WSDOT recognized roadside areas developed through the initiative of a community organization to convey an impression to visitors and express community identity. CEAs are established at the request of a community

organization, in agreement with the WSDOT Region Landscape Architect (or equivalent) and Maintenance Engineer. The three areas, defined by specific limits, are: interchange CEA, gateway CEA, and intersection CEA.

Corridor Continuity

The overall coordination and sequence of visual features as experienced by the roadway user. Corridor continuity contributes to positive guidance, navigation, and a positive driving experience, while also preserving the integrity of the roadside environment.

Cost-Effective

Economical in terms of fulfilling roadside functions and Roadside Classification Plan objectives at the least possible cost.

Cultural

Of or related to products of human work and thought typical of a population or community at a given time.

Ecological

Of or having to do with the environments of living things or with the pattern of relations between living things and their environment, characterized by the interdependence of organisms.

Ecological Succession

The natural tendency of plant communities to change over time.

Enclose/Screen

A roadside treatment strategy, the aim of which is a more or less permeable buffer between two adjacent elements, typically the roadway and adjacent lands. Used to obscure or lessen the impact of an objectionable view or sound or to otherwise buffer one area from another.

Enhance (Enhancement)

To increase or make greater, as in value or beauty. With regards to roadsides, to increase the fulfillment of Roadside Classification Plan objectives through design and maintenance actions.

Environmental Functions

Functions that protect and enhance our natural and built surroundings. Environmental functions include water quality, wetland and sensitive area protection, noxious weed control, noise control, habitat preservation, air quality improvement, and erosion control

Expose

A roadside treatment strategy, the aim of which is to preserve or open a visual sightline, or remove vegetation for operational purposes.

Forest Roadside Character

A roadside character classification in the natural character category, indicating predominantly natural or naturalized forest.

A roadside classified as forest is characterized by natural-appearing landforms and native trees and/or understory vegetation. Zone 2 may be meadow.

Frame

To design and manage roadside elements to delineate, expose, and enhance a scenic or otherwise desirable view.

Gateway Community Enhancement Area (Gateway CEA)

A Community Enhancement Area that is located in the vicinity of and highlights a town, city, regional, or state boundary along any state roadway, excluding multilane, limited access highways.

Harmony

A pleasing combination of elements forming an integrated whole.

Indigenous

Occurring naturally (without human influence) in a specific area or environment.

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is the establishment of low-maintenance beneficial vegetation, and the suppression of unwanted vegetation, through integration of biological, cultural, manual, mechanical, and educational tactics. Chemical controls are used only when needed. Integrated Vegetation Management uses plant growth characteristics, principles of plant succession, and knowledge of natural and human-related factors affecting environmental change to achieve management goals, while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Interchange Community Enhancement Area (Interchange CEA)

A Community Enhancement Area that highlights an entryway to a community along a multilane state roadway, and is limited to a specific area delineated within the roadway configuration.

Intersection Community Enhancement Area (Intersection CEA)

A Community Enhancement Area that highlights an intersection providing sole state roadway access to a community, or is part of a multilane roadway interchange.

Landform

All or any portion of, the geological features of the earth, including soil, rock outcrops, and the surface and subsurface configurations of land.

Landscape

All or any portion of, the surface features of the earth, including natural and built elements.

Life-Cycle Costs

An assessment of all the significant costs (planning, design, construction, and maintenance) of ownership over the anticipated life of an asset.

Maintain

To facilitate continuance of, or development into, a prescribed condition.

Maintenance

The preservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of the highway facility through ongoing care and upkeep.

Management Zone

See Roadside Management Zone.

Meadow

Predominantly low herbaceous perennial vegetation, perpetuated through minimal maintenance effort.

Mitigate (Mitigation)

To moderate a negative impact by upgrading to an acceptable standard; to make milder, less severe.

Native (Native Plant)

Occurring naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat, without human cause or influence. All plant species indigenous to, or known to exist in, a region at the time of European settlement.

Natural

Environmental elements or processes not commonly controlled by people.

Natural Character

A roadside character category indicating a landscape in which vegetation and landforms are predominant. Human elements and structures are rare or insignificant in the overall context. Natural character includes the forest and open roadside character classifications.

Natural Environment

The dynamic aggregate of interdependent elements, conditions, and influences present in, or produced by, nature and functioning according to processes not originally under the control of people.

Navigation

Trip planning and execution. Navigation uncertainty can cause erratic maneuvers and traffic conflicts. Landmarks and guide signs contribute to safe navigation.

Non-native

Vegetation that is exotic or foreign in origin. Not native.

Open Roadside Character

A roadside character classification in the natural character category indicating a landscape in which sky and sweeping views prevail in a landscape of few or no trees, including prairie, steppe, desert, and agricultural fields.

A roadside classified as open is characterized by natural-appearing landforms and low growing native vegetation or agricultural crops associated with adjacent farming.

Operational Functions

Roadside functions that provide safe and multiuse roadsides. Operational functions include access control, clear zone, sight distance, signing, trails and bikeways, and utility accommodation.

Policy Plan

See Transportation Policy Plan for Washington State.

Positive Guidance

An operational concept based on predictability and coherence of the visual environment. Positive guidance assesses driver expectancy factors and gives the driver visual information to avoid accidents and drive efficiently. (Expectancy refers to the driver's readiness to respond successfully to configurations and conditions that reinforce the driver's expectations.) Land use, sight distance, and terrain are among the factors used to assess driver expectancy and implement positive guidance.

Preserve

To keep safe, as from injury, or to keep or maintain integrity (of roadside character or environment).

Restore (Restoration)

To bring back to, or develop into, an original or desired (roadside character or ecological) state.

Roadside

The area between the roadway edge and right of way boundaries, including unpaved median strips and auxiliary facilities, such as rest areas, roadside parks, viewpoints, historic markers, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, wetland buffer areas, stormwater treatment facilities, park and ride lots, and maintenance facilities adjacent to the roadway.

Roadside Character

The general character of the roadside landscape, assessed according to the roadway user's visual perspective. Roadside character is the basis for roadside character classification.

Roadside Classification

Any of five classifications given to a route or stretch of roadway through a review process conducted by WSDOT, and documented in the *WSDOT Roadside Classification Log*. Roadside character classifications fall within two categories: natural and built. Natural includes the Open and Forest roadside character classifications. Built includes the Rural, Semiurban, and Urban roadside character classifications.

Roadside Function

Any activity or role for which the roadside is specifically suited and used. The roadside is managed to fulfill operational, environmental, and visual functions. In reality, these functions are interrelated and inseparable. However, the three categories help communicate the scope of roadside management issues.

Roadside Guidelines

Guidelines developed to facilitate roadside management consistent with Roadside Classification Plan objectives. Roadside guidelines begin as statewide guidelines and are tailored by the WSDOT regions into regional and route-specific guidelines as needed.

Roadside Management

WSDOT management encompassing the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of roadsides.

Roadside Management Zone

Any of three roadside zones delineated to facilitate roadside management (not all zones occur on every roadside.) See “Roadside Management Zones” in the Appendices. The zones are:

- Zone 1 (Vegetation Free Zone): Width as necessary to meet operational needs. The width of Zone 1 is limited as much as possible. In most cases the width is 0-2 ft.
- Zone 2 (Operational Zone): Extends from the outside edge of Zone 1 to meet operational needs.
- Zone 3 (Transition Zone): Extends from the outside edge of Zone 2 to the right of way line.

Roadside Master Plan (RMP)

A roadside plan prepared for a route or portion of a route where conditions require coordination of planning, design, construction, and maintenance with anticipated route development, construction activities, environmental or other commitments, and/or a special route designation.

Roadside Restoration

The use of planning, design, construction, and maintenance activities to protect and restore the roadside according to designated roadside character and Roadside Classification Plan provisions.

Roadside Treatment Level

Any of three levels of RCP guideline implementation. The three levels of treatment are: level 1 (restore roadside character through maintenance activities, using IVM), level 2 (restore roadside character through project construction activities), and level 3 (accelerate restoration of roadside character through project construction activities).

Roadside Treatment Strategy

A conceptual design strategy used to coordinate implementation of roadside guidelines and fulfill roadside functions. The three basic treatment strategies are enclose/screen, expose, and blend.

Roadside Treatment Tool

A landscape element used in roadside treatment to preserve or restore roadside character. Roadside management uses three basic treatment tools: landform, vegetation, and structure.

Route Development Plan (RDP)

A component of the State Highway System Plan portion of the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, further detailing the State Highway System Plan vision. It includes identification of needs that should be placed in the 6-Year Improvement Program, and needs within and beyond the 20-year horizon of the State Highway System Plan. The RDP is likely to include a Roadside Master Plan where roadside planning concerns are identified.

Rural Roadside Character

A roadside character classification in the built category, indicating intermixed built and natural or naturalized elements, with built elements beginning to encroach on the natural environment; human manipulations of the land are evident.

A roadside classified as rural is characterized by natural-appearing landforms and vegetation. Vegetation is predominantly native. Non-native vegetation may reflect historical land use. Zone 2 may be meadow or agricultural crops associated with adjacent farming. Character continuity is provided by uniform Zone 2 management.

Screen

A buffer between two points or areas, used to obscure or lessen the impact of a distracting, or otherwise objectionable, view or sound, or to protect privacy.

Semiurban Roadside Character

A roadside character classification in the built category, characterized by intermixed built and natural or naturalized elements, with built elements prevailing.

A roadside classified as semiurban is transitional in character. Vegetation is a combination of native and non-native species. Trees and large shrubs are predominant where sufficient right of way is available. Zone 2 may vary from mowed grass to low-maintenance vegetation. Roadside management is used to develop a consistent, informal, moderately-refined appearance in Zone 2. Structures are coordinated for visual continuity throughout the corridor.

Sightline

The visual pathway between two points.

State Highway System Plan

The state highway element of the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan. The State Highway System Plan forms the basis for development of future state highway programs, projects, and budgets. The plan defines service objectives and proposes strategies for maintaining, preserving, and improving state highways. See Policy Background in the Appendices.

Stewardship

The act of assuming responsibility for the long-term protection, enhancement, and conservation of resources, including the natural environment.

Structure

Something constructed, such as a wall, fence, abutment, sign bridge, or cantilever support; a built element.

Succession

See Ecological Succession.

Sustainable Roadside

A roadside that fulfills design intent and roadside functions over the long term, and protects the environment wherever possible, within present and future available funding, personnel, equipment, and methodologies,

Systems Plan

See State Highway System Plan.

Transportation Policy Plan for Washington State

A statewide document containing policies and strategies for transportation program direction and funding. The Transportation Policy Plan contains policies adopted annually by the Washington State Transportation Commission to guide and coordinate the efforts of state, regional, and local agencies. Development of these policies is guided by extensive public review and comment. See Policy Background in the Appendices.

Treatment Level

See Roadside Treatment Level.

Treatment Strategy

See Roadside Treatment Strategy

Treatment Tool

See Roadside Treatment Tool.

Urban Character

A roadside character classification in the built category, indicating a predominately built environment.

A roadside classified as urban is characterized by elements that mirror the character of adjacent land use. Vegetation is predominantly non-native (ornamental) trees, shrubs, and groundcover, with remnants of native vegetation. There is a consistent, refined appearance throughout all management zones. Structures are coordinated for visual continuity throughout the corridor. Special attention is given to architectural detail.

Visual Distraction

Any element in the roadway, roadside, or surrounding environment, that overloads the driver with visual information and detracts from essential aspects of the driving task, forcing the driver to sacrifice some aspect(s) of safe and efficient driving.

Visual Elements

The compositional elements, form, line, color, and texture, that form patterns of visual character.

Visual Functions

Roadside functions that are designed and experienced primarily from a visual perspective. Visual functions promote a positive quality of life, and are integral to operational and environmental functions. They include positive guidance and navigation, distraction screening, corridor continuity, roadway and adjacent property buffering, and scenic view preservation.

Visual Quality

The essential character of a landscape as perceived by sight and analyzed through visual quality analysis, including landscape characteristics as well as the cultural values of the viewer.

Visual Quality Analysis

An evaluation of the visual quality of a landscape using a prescribed analytical process.

7:P:RCP2

