CHAPTER F ROADSIDE FACILITIES

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CHAPTER F ROADSIDE FACILITIES

F.1 VEHICLE INSPECTION STATIONS

F.1.1 Introduction

Vehicle inspection stations are checkpoints established at locations throughout the highway system. Their primary purpose is to facilitate enforcement of regulations governing the trucking industry. The stations located near provincial boundaries are initial contact points for incoming vehicles. Those near major urban centres provide service to the trucking industry by issuing permits, and checking weights prior to vehicle departure from point of origin.

The vehicle inspection station (VIS) standards used in the province can be divided into three general classes: A, B and C. Standard site layout plans for class A, B and C, including details of access geometrics, are provided in Figures F-1.2, F-1.3, F-1.4a and F-1.4b. Although these plans show a standard, details of a vehicle inspection station, such as scales, buildings and parking areas, are designed to suit each location. Although the on-site details are customized, the acceleration/deceleration lanes, tapers and turning roadways will have an impact on the level of service on the adjacent highway. They should be designed based on standard highway geometric design considerations (functional classification, design speed, divided/undivided, gradient, traffic volume, etc.). Vehicle inspections are also sometimes undertaken at truck turnouts which serve as spot check sites. These are described in Section F.2.4.

F.1.2 Class A VIS

Class A is the standard vehicle inspection station for divided highways. This layout provides a high speed off-ramp and on-ramp, which ensures minimal impact on through traffic operations under normal conditions. The standard treatment also includes 600m of acceleration distance, including ramp and parallel lane. Depending on the level of service on the highway and highway grades, the designer may extend or shorten the parallel lane.

The standard treatment includes a satellite site on the opposite side of the highway, which may allow vehicles travelling in the opposite direction to be checked also. A median cross-over is generally not provided, due to the operational problems that can occur where large vehicles have to cross a busy divided highway.

Generally, if the level of service on the divided highway is A, or in the lower half of B (that is, up to 21,000 AADT on a typical rural four-lane divided highway), the standard acceleration and deceleration lanes are adequate. For higher volumes and/or uphill gradients, longer acceleration lanes may be used. A set of performance curves for the Alberta design truck 180 g/w (which is about the 85th percentile mass:power ratio for loaded trucks in the province) is provided. It enables the designer to gauge the impact of gradients and estimate the approximate merge speed for heavy trucks. Although 80 km/h is considered a desirable merge speed, it is frequently not practical to provide a sufficiently long acceleration lane to achieve that speed, considering that 1200m would be needed on a level grade. A merge speed of 70 km/h is considered adequate in general for this type of facility.

Bearing in mind the advantages for truck deceleration and acceleration, it is preferable to locate major VISs near the top of smooth crest curves, where possible, especially on busy divided highways. The location of the access and egress should have good sight distance (decision sight distance is desirable) to facilitate safe merge and diverge manoeuvres.

F.1.3 Class B VIS

Class B is the standard vehicle inspection station for permanent, manned stations on two-lane undivided highways. This layout provides for some deceleration and acceleration of vehicles using the station, and it also provides a bypass lane for through traffic. The length of the parallel acceleration lane may be varied, depending on the level of service on the highway, and a range of lengths is suggested on the figure. The truck performance curves are also included for the designer's use.

F.1.4 Class C Mobile VIS

The Class C VIS is the standard layout for portable or mobile vehicle inspection stations. In recent years, some of these sites have been equipped with automatic weigh scales, which are normally unmanned and may be used by the public.

The layout includes acceleration, deceleration and bypass lanes, the length of which depend on the traffic volume on the highway. Notes are included on Figures F-1.4a and F-1.4b as a guideline for provision of auxiliary lanes.



NOTE REGARDING ACCELERATION LANE REQUIREMENTS:

I. GENERALLY, IF THE LEVEL-OF-SERVICE ON THE DIVIDED HIGHWAY IS "A" OR IN THE LOWER VOLUME HALF OF "B" (THAT IS, UP TO 20,000 AADT ON A TYPICAL RURAL FOUR-LANE DIVIDED FACILITY), THE STANDARD ACCELERATION LANE AS SHOWN IS ADEQUATE. FOR HIGHER VOLUMES AND/OR UPHILL GRADIENTS LONGER ACCELERATION LANES MAY BE USED. A SET OF PERFORMANCE CURVES FOR THE ALBERTA DESIGN TRUCK (180g/w MASS/POWER RATIO) IS PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE DESIGNER TO GAUGE THE IMPACT OF GRADIENTS. A MERGE SPEED OF 80 km/h IS DESIRABLE.

2. THE TOTAL LENGTH AVAILABLE FOR TRUCK ACCELERATION FROM THE V.I.S. TO THE MERGE POINT ON THIS PLAN IS 1050m. THIS INCLUDES 450m OF PARALLEL LANE PLUS THE ON-RAMP LENGTH. THIS ALLOWS A TYPICAL LOADED TRUCK TO ACCELERATE TO APPROXIMATELY

VY. R/W BDY.	HWY. R/W BDY.
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ST = 80.719M PROP.R/W BDY.	REV ACCEL LANE NOTES BK 08/99
	INFRASTRUCTURE FIGURE Date: APRIL 1995
	CLASS "A" VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION (Standard Layout and Access
$\frac{\text{CURVE}}{\Delta} = 10^{\circ} 15'$	on Divided Highways)

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PAGE F-5







NOTE REGARDING AUXILIARY LANES:

IF THE AADT ON THE HIGHWAY EXCEEDS 1000, ADDITIONAL AUXILIARY LANES MAY BE REQUIRED. REFER TO FIGURE F-1.4a.

A						
\triangle	\triangle					
No.	No. REVISIONS					
/	1		ICTURE	FIGURE F-1.4b		
CLASS "C" MOBILE INSPECTION STATION (MIS) (For Undivided Highways with AADT Less than 1000.)						
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NOTES:

- I. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN.
- 2. DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE FINISHED SURFACE PAVEMENT WIDTHS. ADDITIONAL SUBGRADE WIDTH TO BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW FOR DEPTH OF BASE COURSE AND PAVEMENT.
- 3. STRUCTURES SHOWN ON VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION SITE ARE "TYPICAL" (NOT STANDARD). STRUCTURES ARE GENERALLY A CUSTOMIZED DESIGN.

F.2 HIGHWAY SAFETY REST AREAS

F.2.1 Introduction

Highway safety rest areas are considered an integral part of modern highway systems. They provide drivers with a greater measure of safety, comfort and convenience. The concept of building a comprehensive network of highway safety rest areas throughout the primary highway system is expected to provide benefits to society.

Safety rest areas serve three primary purposes:

- Improve safety by providing places for travellers to rest periodically
- Provide suitable places for emergency stops and access to toilet facilities, telephones, etc.
- Provide tourist and interpretive information for travellers, create a positive image of the province and thus promote tourism.

Although it is difficult to calculate the benefits of safety rest areas in economic terms, the U.S. Transportation Research Board has developed a preliminary methodology for calculating the benefits. It is based on the rest area's role in reducing shoulder stop and fatigue caused collisions. The board has also suggested a procedure for estimating the comfort and convenience value of rest areas. There are other benefits such as the beneficial impact on tourism. However, there is not sufficient data available to calculate these in economic terms.

The safety rest areas currently in use in Alberta can be divided into four categories:

- Class I Major rest areas accommodating cars, recreational vehicles and trucks, and located along existing or proposed expressways and freeways
- Class II Smaller rest areas accommodating cars and recreational vehicles, and usually located along two-lane highways (typical highway campground or day-use area)
- Class III(a) Basic car, recreational vehicle, and truck turnouts located along all primary highways. Class III(a) rest areas are

essentially a shoulder widening with vehicles stopping on the pavement adjacent to the shoulder.

Class III(b) Roadside turnouts for divided highways. This type of turnout is intended to accommodate all vehicle types and provide an offset between the turnouts and the travel lanes to enhance safety. The Class III(b) typical design was adopted by Alberta Infrastructure in 1999 for use on the North-South Trade Corridor and the Yellowhead Highway. This type of treatment is preferred (over the Class III(a) type) for use on all divided highways or highways that are identified for future twinning.

Rest area spacing has been the subject of considerable study in the U.S. At present, the average spacing on the entire U.S. interstate system is approximately 80 km. Based on that study and experience in Alberta, it has been concluded that it is desirable to make provision for vehicles to stop on every 90 km length of highway. The provision of rest areas on higher volume routes, especially divided highways, is most beneficial as this will serve the greatest need.

The optimum spacing for Class III rest areas is affected by volume and particularly type of traffic. Spacing in this class may vary widely. Turnouts would normally be quite close together on highly scenic recreational highways and more widely spaced on low volume non-recreational roads. In general, an average spacing of 30 to 40 km throughout the highway system is considered desirable.

The three classes of rest areas are described in more detail in the following sections. These descriptions are typical and actual designs may be different due to site or traffic demands. It should be noted that only Class I and III rest areas provide for large truck access and parking. Class II rest areas are generally suitable for passenger vehicles and recreational vehicles only. When calculating the existing or desired spacing between rest areas both Class I and Class III facilities should be considered as they both serve all design vehicles.

F.2.2 Class I - Major Rest Areas

Class I rest areas are recommended only on the existing and proposed freeway system. Development of these rest areas may be staged over a period of time by developing lower class facilities initially and upgrading to the full Class I standards when traffic warrants.

Class I rest areas vary in size and services provided, but generally have flush toilets, water and sewer systems, dump stations, picnic areas, waste receptacles, pet exercise areas, telephone, lighting and landscaping, and surfaced parking for cars, recreational vehicles and trucks. Travel information is normally provided. All facilities of the rest area are designed to be fully accessible and special design features such as special phones may be provided for the visually and hearing impaired.

The desirable spacing between Class I rest areas on the divided highway system is 90 km. For practical reasons Class III(b) roadside turnouts may be built in lieu of Class I rest areas where there is insufficient traffic to justify a full Class I facility. The number of parking spaces is dependent on the anticipated demand, which is estimated based on traffic volume, traffic composition, functional classification and estimated length of stay. Rest areas should not be located in or adjacent to urban areas because of the competition with commercial facilities and the potential for increased vandalism.

The typical access/egress to the Class I rest area is shown in Figure F-2.2. Class I rest areas are designed to serve one direction of traffic only, and no median crossovers are permitted. The length of deceleration taper and off-ramp as shown is generally more than adequate to eliminate interference with the through traffic flow on Alberta's four-lane divided highways in a rural setting.

Generally, if the level of service on the divided highway is A or in the lower volume half of B, (that is, up to 21,000 AADT on a typical four-lane divided facility), the standard acceleration distance as shown is adequate. For higher volumes and/or uphill gradients, longer acceleration lanes may be used. The general guideline for provision of an additional acceleration lane for Class A VISs, as outlined in Section F.1.1, may be applied to Class I rest areas also. That guideline is shown on Figure F-1.2.

F.2.3 Class II - Smaller Rest Areas

Class II rest areas are usually located along two-lane arterial highways and have toilets, picnic facilities, waste receptacles and surfaced or unsurfaced parking for cars and recreational vehicles. These areas may also include telephone, lighting, well or cistern, and bulletin boards. These rest areas are intended to be day-use only. However, this may be interpreted as allowing overnight stops, especially where camping facilities are not available within a reasonable distance.

Class II rest areas are generally accessible only to cars and recreational vehicles. They are usually located along two-lane highways with lower traffic volumes, and should have a 90 km spacing (similar to Class I), dependent on the availability of commercial facilities in the area. These rest areas are accessible from both directions of travel.

The typical access to a Class II rest area is shown on Figure F-2.3. The typical layout includes a generous provision for acceleration/deceleration and bypass, which is generally adequate for the volumes that are found on two-lane undivided highways in Alberta. In cases where the volume on the highway is relatively low, that is, less than 1800 AADT, a lower standard treatment may be used. Designers should use the intersection treatment design guidelines as outlined in Section D.6 to design the access to Class II rest areas where the highway AADT is less than 1800.

F.2.4 Class III Rest Areas (Turnouts)

Class III rest areas, also known as turnouts, are functional and desirable elements on heavily travelled roads and on those carrying recreational traffic. In general, turnouts are paved areas outside the normal continuous paved shoulder, where parking space is provided at a safe distance away from the through travel lanes. On undivided highways, turnouts are generally adjacent to the shoulder. In 1999 Alberta Infrastructure adopted a policy of constructing divided highway roadside turnouts at an offset from the highway. The separation is in the range of 50 m. This is intended to enhance safety for road users and provide a more comfortable facility for weary drivers to take a break. This initiative is expected to reduce the prevalence of driver fatigue which can contribute to collisions especially on routes that carry predominantly long distance traffic.

Planning studies have been undertaken to identify desired locations of Class III(b) roadside turnouts based on spacing, traffic volumes, proximity to urban centres etc. Studies have been completed for the North-South Trade Corridor and the Yellowhead Highway. Studies for other divided highways and future divided highway corridors are ongoing.

Construction of the planned facilities will generally be undertaken in conjunction with other major roadwork in the vicinity.

When the location of a highway is in an area of particular beauty and where a large percentage of the traffic volume is recreational, many turnouts may be provided. Such turnouts provide drivers the opportunity to pull off the through travel lanes, safely stop, and take in the scenery. Litter containers and possibly washroom and telephone facilities may be included in this type of turnout.

Class III rest areas (turnouts) provide the only opportunity outside of the Class I rest areas and commercial sites for large trucks to pull off the highway.

The maximum desirable spacing for turnouts is 50 to 60 km on highways carrying substantial truck traffic. Since turnouts are generally required on both sides of the highway, they should be offset by a minimum of one km. The near side turnout should be located in advance of the far side turnout. On divided highways roadside turnouts are only accessible for one direction of travel and therefore the 50 to 60 km spacing should be used for each direction.

Class III rest areas are required on divided and undivided highways. The typical layouts shown in Figures F-2.4a, b and c are intended for undivided highways. Figures F-2.4d, e, f and g show typical layouts for existing or future divided highway routes. The typical turnouts in Figure F-2.4c are intended for recreational or scenic routes only (generally lower volume). Figure F-2.4b is used on high volume (AADT>3000) log haul routes, and Figure F-2.4a is used in all other cases.

Figure F-2.4c illustrates two types of roadside turnouts used on low volume recreational roads. The deep pulloff, usually located at a viewpoint, provides a large pavement area that accommodates angle parking, while the standard pull-off provides a smaller paved area for parallel parking. All of the turnouts (except those on recreational routes) include a two metre shoulder adjacent to the parking area. This is provided to facilitate vehicle inspections.

Parallel Acceleration/Deceleration Lanes

Generally, it is desirable to provide parallel acceleration and deceleration lanes and tapers with turnouts to ensure safe merging and diverging operations.

However, because of the high cost of providing additional lanes and because of the variety of traffic conditions that may exist, a design guideline has been developed to promote greater cost effectiveness. The guideline is as follows:

Undivided Highways (Class III(a))

- 1. If AADT<1000, parallel lanes are not required.
- 2. If 1000<AADT<3000, standard acceleration and deceleration lanes as shown on Type A or B of Figure F-2.4a should be used. The type is chosen based on highway design designation.
- 3. If AADT>3000. On log haul routes Figure F-2.4b is used; on all other routes Figure F-2.4a is used. The designer should consider the acceleration characteristics of the design truck (180 g/w mass/power ratio) and gradient and provide for a suitable merge speed. The desirable minimum merge speed is 80 km/h; however, 60 km/h is considered adequate. The length of parallel lane should not exceed 600m for practical reasons.

Divided Highways (Class III(b))

On rural divided arterial highways, the typical design layouts shown in Figures F-2.4d and e, may be used.

Ideally, truck turnouts should be located near the top of smooth crest curves, provided that sight distance restrictions do not occur. This will aid the deceleration and acceleration of trucks using the facility and may allow the designer to reduce the length of parallel lane.

F.3 MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ACCESS (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL)

Figure F-3 illustrates a typical frontage road layout for service centres along divided highways. For major

commercial developments along undivided highways developers should comply with the Access Management Guidelines (Chapter I of this document) and the guidelines for design of at-grade intersections shown in Chapter D.











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By: BK

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NOTES REGARDING ACCELERATION LANE REQUIREMENTS:

- I. GENERALLY, IF THE LEVEL-OF-SERVICE ON THE DIVIDED HIGHWAY IS "A" OR IN THE LOWER HALF OF "B" (THAT IS, UP TO 21,000 AADT ON A TYPICAL RURAL FOUR-LANE DIVIDED FACILITY), THE STANDARD ACCELERATION LANE AS SHOWN IS ADEQUATE. FOR HIGHER VOLUMES AND/OR UPHILL GRADIENTS LONGER ACCELERATION LANES MAY BE USED. A SET OF PERFORMANCE CURVES FOR THE ALBERTA DESIGN TRUCK (180g/w MASS/POWER RATIO) IS PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE DESIGNER TO GAUGE THE IMPACT OF GRADIENTS. A MERGE SPEED OF 80 km/h IS DESIRABLE,







TYPICAL FRONTAGE ROAD LAY-OUT FOR SERVICE CENTRES ALONG DIVIDED HIGHWAYS

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HWY.R/W BDY.



NOTE S:

- I. DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE FINISHED SURFACE PAVEMENT WIDTHS. ADDITIONAL SUBGRADE WIDTHS TO BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW FOR DEPTH OF BASE COURSE AND PAVEMENT.
- 2. ALL CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS SHALL BE OF AN EQUAL STANDARD TO THAT EMPLOYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ADJACENT HIGHWAY WITHIN THE GENERAL MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AS FOLLOWS:
- a) EMBANKMENTS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL COMPACTED TO A MINIMUM OF 95% OF STANDARD PROCTOR DENSITY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UPPER 300mm WHICH SHALL BE COMPACTED IN 150mm LAYERS TO A MINIMUM OF 100% OF STANDARD PROCTOR DENSITY.

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