

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

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MassDOT Highway Division **Project Development and Design Guide** **Active Update Edition**

This Engineering Directive formally announces changes to the *MassDOT Highway Division Project Development and Design Guide* (PDDG) and provides direction on the appropriate use of the PDDG for new and existing projects.

Starting in October 2023, MassDOT began to update elements of the 2006 Edition of the PDDG by posting revised chapters on mass.gov. Eventually, all chapters of the 2006 Edition of the PDDG will be updated and converted to a web-based format. The web-based version of the PDDG will be actively updated and will be used on all transportation projects where one or more of the following conditions exist:

- MassDOT is the proponent
- MassDOT is responsible for project funding (state or federal-aid projects)
- MassDOT controls the infrastructure (projects on state highways)

Effective October 21, 2024, the Active Update Edition of the PDDG shall be used for all new and existing projects, as applicable, except as follows:

- Projects that received Project Review Committee approval prior to July 1, 2024 need not conform to all new planning process guidelines (in Chapter 2).
- Projects that received 25% design approval prior to October 21, 2024 need not conform to all new design guidelines and may continue to be designed in accordance with any previously-issued design standards.

In all cases, MassDOT reserves the right to require the use of the most-current project development and design guidelines and standards for any project at any stage of design. Proponents and designers should frequently monitor the Active Update Edition of the PDDG for changes to ensure that all projects are advanced using the most-current guidelines and standards.

The Active Update Edition of the PDDG expands on the principles of context-sensitive design and multimodal design that were prominent in the 2006 Edition of the PDDG and includes a new emphasis on speed management and the use of a Safe System Approach to design. As part of this approach, designers are now required to select a Target Speed for many projects, which will influence their subsequent design decisions. The Active Update Edition of the PDDG also includes important changes to the project scoping process to help ensure that all necessary elements are considered early in the project development process, before significant resources are expended.

With the formal release of the Active Update Edition of the PDDG, the following Engineering Directives are no longer required and are hereby superseded:

- E-06-001 – Massachusetts Highway Department Project Development and Design Guidebook, 2006 Edition
- E-14-002 – Minimum Length of Horizontal Curves
- E-21-002 – Pre-25% Design Scoping Procedure