

**Oregon Department of Transportation**

Delivery & Operations Division/

Engineering & Technical Services

7163 ­‑ Geotechnical Engineering,

Engineering Geology & Hazmat Section

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FILE CODE:

**DATE: Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

**TO:** Susan C. Ortiz, P.E., G.E.

 State Geotechnical Engineer

**FROM: Curran Mohney Phone: (503) 508-3628**

 **Engineering Geology Program Lead**

 Oregon Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: Proposed Revision to Geotechnical Design Manual**

 **To Section Number** 4.3.1.1

**Problem Statement:**

Current GDM Section 4.3.1.1 references the older AASHTO 1988 Manual on Subsurface Investigations for the base level of investigation.

[Provide a copy of the section being revised]

4.3.1.1 Minimum Requirements for Subsurface

Investigations

The considerations of section 4.3.1 do not preclude the necessity of established minimum requirements for

subsurface investigations. The base level of investigation has value as an initial approach to a subsurface

investigation and for preliminary cost estimation of exploration activities as well as assuring that some

uniform amount of exploration is accomplished for all geotechnical design. The minimum standards for

subsurface investigations are well defined in the 1988 AASHTO Manual on Subsurface

Investigations, and are broadly accepted in the practice.

Subsurface conditions are highly changeable in Oregon. Because of this, there shouldn’t be any

hesitation to add explorations to the program due to the unpredictable nature of the state’s geology. Much

of the work performed during the preliminary office studies will assist in determining the overall scale of

the subsurface investigation program.

Such added expenditures are always justifiable when additional exploration, testing, and analyses result in

correlative savings on the construction cost and in an overall better geotechnical design.

**Proposal:**

GDM Section 4.3.1.1 should be revised to reflect adoption the updated 2022 2nd edition of the AASHTO Manual on Subsurface Investigations.

[Provide a copy of the proposed revised language here]

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**Analysis / Research / Other Supporting Data:**

[x] None

[ ] Attached:

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**Geotechnical Engineering, Engineering Geology & HazMat Section Response:**

[ ]  Accepted for consideration as submitted

[ ]  Accepted for consideration as noted

[ ]  Proposal tabled, see Remarks

[ ]  Proposal not accepted, see Remarks

**Remarks:**

[Enter Remarks here]

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