

**Oregon Department of Transportation**

Delivery & Operations Division/

Engineering & Technical Services

7163 ­‑ Geotechnical Engineering,

Engineering Geology & Hazmat Section

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**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** 4.5.1

**Problem Statement:**

Current GDM Section 4.5.2 references the older AASHTO 1988 Manual on Subsurface Investigations for the base level of investigation.

[Provide a copy of the section being revised]

4.5.2 Exploration Spacing and Layout

The layout of explorations on a project is determined by many variables. As previously discussed, the

assumed complexity of the underlying geology and the type of facility typically dictate the exploration

spacing. Consider the following:

•Where conditions are uniform and a considerable amount of previous, reliable work has been

accomplished in a project area, exploration spacing may be increased.

•If the geologic conditions are complex and change significantly over short distances, then

explorations will necessarily be conducted on a shorter interval.

•Facilities that will impart a heavy load or are more sensitive to settlement or other movements will

also require a more detailed exploration.

The 1988 AASHTO Manual on Subsurface Investigations provides a range of

exploration spacing for the various structures and features that are typically the subject of subsurface exploration.

These guidelines are modified for use within the State of Oregon where subsurface conditions at many sites

warrant much tighter exploration spacing due to the highly changeable nature of the state’s geology.

**Proposal:**

GDM Section 4.5.1 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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The 2022 AASHTO Manual on Subsurface Investigations, 2nd Edition provides a range of

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These guidelines are modified for use within the State of Oregon where subsurface conditions at many sites

warrant much tighter exploration spacing due to the highly changeable nature of the state’s geology.

**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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