



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

**Department of Transportation  
Technical Leadership Center  
Technical Services  
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July 24, 2012

Phillip Ditzler, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
530 Center Street NE, Suite 420  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Approval of the Design Standards for 2012 Highway Design Manual**

The 2012 Highway Design Manual (HDM) updates the manual to emphasize ODOT's commitment to practical design philosophies. In addition it includes the policy and design changes that have been issued through the technical bulletin process. Specifically these include the 1R program, the vertical clearance standards, and the ADA design exception process.

This effort also reorganized the manual to more closely follow the chapters of the AASHTO *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets – 2011*. This should help users cross reference between the two documents.

The 2012 Highway Design Manual is generally in agreement with the 2011 AASHTO *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*.

We are asking for formal FHWA approval of the 2012 HDM and the design standards contained therein. We are also seeking concurrence that the 2011 AASHTO *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* be adopted for use by ODOT. These documents will replace those current documents referenced in the ODOT/FHWA Stewardship Plan.

Cathy M. Nelson, PE  
Technical Services Manager/Chief Engineer



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
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**Oregon Division**

August 21, 2012

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In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-OR

Ms. Cathy M. Nelson  
Technical Services Manager/Chief Engineer  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
4040 Fairview Industrial Drive, MS #1  
Salem, Oregon 97302-1142

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Your July 24, 2012 letter formally transmitted the Oregon Department of Transportation's 2012 Highway Design Manual. The previous Manual has been substantially updated to reflect the Department's commitment to practical design principles and to more strongly align with the 2011 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. We have reviewed the 2012 Highway Design Manual and approve the use of this manual for Federal-aid projects. We appreciate the Department's commitment to advancing geometric design and supporting highway design and safety integration.

In closing, we acknowledge the efforts made by your agency in working with us to resolve our concerns throughout review of this Manual. The close working relationship and commitment to working through sometimes complex issues is much appreciated. We look forward to continuing to explore other design and safety approaches with the Department following the implementation of this latest version.

Sincerely,

for  
Phillip A. Ditzler  
Division Administrator