Reasonable Highway Standards

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Why Do You Need Standards?

Liability & Safety

Planning
Communications

Money

Possible Standards
- AASHTO “Green Book”
- AASHTO Low-Volume
- Highway Standards for LVR in NYS
- Locally-developed
What are Reasonable Standards?
- Clear and easy to understand
- Meet the needs of the public without undue expense
- Used for all highways

Easy to Understand?
A four-legged animal to provide companionship.

What Does the Public Need?
10’
22’
36’
Used for ALL ROADS

- Developments
- Existing highways

Appropriate Standards

- AASHTO “Green Book”
- AASHTO Low-Volume
- Highway Standards for LVR in NYS
- Locally-developed

AASHTO

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AASHTO Standards

- 2 lanes
- Design speed based upon terrain
- Width based upon speed & traffic
- 2'+ shoulder
- 10' clear zone desired
- Geometry only

Guidelines for Rural Town and County Roads

...the existing guidelines for the design and maintenance of rural highways having low-volumes were not appropriate...

Highway Standards for Low-Volume Roads in NYS

- Cornell Local Roads Program

KISS
Reasonable Standards

- 1 or 2 lanes
- Design speed based upon terrain & land use
- Width based upon land use
- 2' shoulder width (can vary for other uses)
- Consistent clear zone desired
- Roadbed thickness and drainage included

Clear Zone

- 2' minimum
- 10' desirable
- Wider where needed

Roadbed Thickness

- At least 18"
- 20 year design life
- With routine maintenance
Drainage Facilities
- Larger for more important roads
- Larger under the roadway
- Minimum size pipe is 18”

Is it Reasonable?

Reasonable Highway Standards
- Clear and easy to understand
- Meet the needs of the public
- Used for all roads

Thank You

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