

Pickering, John

From: Pickering, John
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 1998 8:50 AM
To: Swindoll, William
Cc: Ruff, Wendel; Reese, John; McWilliams, Roger
Subject: Interchange Spacing Requirements

A couple of weeks ago you called me with a question regarding the minimum spacing requirements for interchanges. I believe I told you what I wanted the MDOT to pursue instead of what the guidelines actually are. Therefore, I will try to clear up the matter with the following information:

NOTE: ALL DISTANCES ARE MEASURED ALONG THE MAIN LINE FROM CROSSROAD TO CROSSROAD.

FROM AASHTO GREEN BOOK(S)

1990 Edition (English) - 1 Mile in Urban Areas and 2 Miles in Rural Areas

1994 Edition (Metric) - 1.5 km (0.93 mi.) in Urban Areas and 3.0 km (1.86 mi.) in Rural Areas)

FROM AASHTO, "A POLICY ON DESIGN STANDARDS -- INTERSTATE SYSTEM"

July, 1991 Edition - Same as above Green Book, except it says, "*In urban areas, spacing of less than one mile may be developed by grade-separated ramps or by collector-distributor roads.*"

FROM MDOT PLANNING DIVISION

As a general rule, they have used the 1 mile in urban areas and 3 miles in rural areas.

FROM MDOT ROADWAY DESIGN DIVISION

We have used the 1 mile and 2 miles as a general rule; however, our new Design Manual (not published yet) will say the following:

- Urban Areas - 1.5 km (0.93 mi.) or 1 mile
- Rural Areas - Interstate System - 5 km (3.11 mi.) or 3 miles
Other than Interstate - 3 km (1.86 mi.) or 2 miles

Roadway Design Division intends to follow the guidelines as stated above in our new Design Manual. There certainly can be exceptions to the above guidelines, such as when one of the interchanges is one-sided, which provides a greater distance between the gores.

Sorry for any inconvenience my earlier answer may have caused, and if you have further questions, don't hesitate to give me a call.