



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
Mississippi Division
666 North Street, Suite 105
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDO-MS

August 5, 2002

Mr. Larry L. Brown, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Brown:

Subject: Design Policy for Sideslopes and
Clear Zones on 3R Interstate Highways

We received Mr. James H. Kopf's July 26, 2002, request for concurrence, for a **Design Policy for Sideslopes and Clear Zones on 3R Interstate Highways**. The FHWA Design and Operations Section worked closely with MDOT Roadway Design Division during the development of the policy, and all were in agreement of the requirements set forth.

We concur that the policy is acceptable for 3R projects on Interstate Highways.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence J Kastner

Andrew H. Hughes
Division Administrator

File 500
Reading File
MLHahn:mlh/jh 8/5/02

Zack Stewart
Northern District Commissioner

Dick Hall
Central District Commissioner

Wayne H. Brown
Southern District Commissioner



Larry L. "Butch" Brown
Executive Director

James H. Kopf
Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Engineer

500

- DA
- SEC
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- A-1
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- CR
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- PLN
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- SFTY
- ITS
- FM
- FC
- M&F
- ROW
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Mississippi Department of Transportation / P.O. Box 1850 / Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110

July 26, 2002

Mr. Andy Hughes
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
666 North Street, Suite 105
Jackson, MS 39205

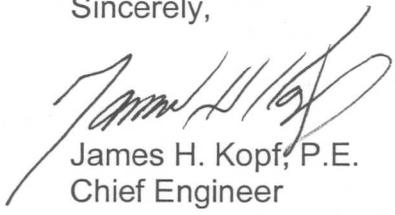
RE: Design Policy for Sideslopes and Clear
Zones on 3R Interstate Highways

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Attached is a *Design Policy for Sideslopes and Clear Zones on 3R Interstate Highways*, dated July 26, 2002. This policy is needed for clarification of the 2001 Roadway Design Manual for 3R Interstate projects. Your staff and Roadway Design Division have discussed the issues and have agreed on the items listed.

We believe the policy meets the objective of 3R Interstate projects, which is, within practical limits, to return the freeway to its original level of serviceability or to improve its serviceability to meet current and future demands in regards to roadside safety. Therefore, your concurrence of this design policy is requested.

Sincerely,



James H. Kopf, P.E.
Chief Engineer

Attachment

pc: Roadway Design Division
File



POLICY FOR SIDESLOPES AND CLEAR ZONES ON 3R INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

Mississippi Department of Transportation
Roadway Design Division
July 26, 2002

SIDESLOPES 4:1 OR FLATTER --

- The 30-foot clear zone is required. Flattening slopes or providing guardrail is not required due to the sideslope issue.

SIDESLOPES STEEPER THAN 4:1 AND 3:1 OR FLATTER --

- Slopes steeper than 4:1 and 3:1 or flatter are acceptable without flattening the slopes and do not require guardrail; however, if accident data indicates a problem, remedial actions will be undertaken at the specific site(s), such as flattening slopes (within existing ROW) or providing guardrail.
- The 30-foot clear zone is required; however, trees will be removed to the bottom of fill sections plus a 10-foot minimum distance beyond the toe. In cut sections, trees will be removed a minimum distance of 10-feet from the ditch line. Acquisition of additional right of way for tree removal is not required.

SIDESLOPES STEEPER THAN 3:1 --

- Sideslopes will be flattened to a 3:1 or flatter slope (depending on existing ROW) or guardrail will be provided.
- If sideslopes are flattened, see above requirements for the slope used.