

INTERCHANGE SPACING REQUIREMENTS

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

FROM AASHTO GREEN BOOK(S):

2001 Edition (English/Metric) -- 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 2001 Design Manual says the following:

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

Roadway Design Division intends to follow the guidelines as stated above in our Design Manual as a general rule; however, there can be exceptions to the guidelines with a capacity analysis giving an acceptable level of service due to one-sided interchanges or ramp braiding.