

Standard Road Plans

Design Manual

Chapter 1

General Information

Originally Issued: 06-02-00

Revised: 10-31-22

Standard road plans are detailed drawings of standardized design features, construction methods, and approved materials. At the Iowa DOT, the Methods Section of the Office of Design oversees all Standard Road Plans. The issued standards are approved by the [Methods Engineer](#) and FHWA, and are posted on the DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/design/Standard-road-plans>.

They are also available on the Electronic Reference Library ([ERL](#)).

MicroStation files for Standard Road Plans are located

- in ProjectWise at:
pw:\NTPwint1.dot.int.lan:PWMain\Documents\Highway\Design\MethodsSection\ORD
Connect\ORD-DGN\Standard Road Plans\
- or on the DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/design/Standard-road-plans>.

The file name represents the name of the standard.

Quick Tips:

Include interim or modified standards in plans as U sheets.

To create a modified standard

- Turn off levels dsnStdBlock and dsnStdBlockNotModified
- Turn on level dsnstdModifiedBlock
- Describe modifications

Title Block

A title block is located in the lower right hand corner of each Standard Road Plan. The title block includes the latest revision date and number and a brief description of the latest revision.

Standard Road Plan Revisions

Standard Road Plans are modified every six months to incorporate changes in technology, procedures, or specifications.

Note: Changes are to be made only by the Methods Section in the Design Bureau.

Revision letters are posted on the DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/design/Standard-road-plans>.

Newly released standards are effective with the April and October lettings.

Interim Standard Road Plans

Occasionally between printed updates, it is necessary to make changes to standard road plans that are not project specific. When this occurs, the Methods Section will create an interim standard with a title block as shown in Figure 1.

Note: Interim Standard Road Plans are to be created or modified only by the Methods Section in the Design Bureau.


Designers will receive an email notification when interim standards are created. They are available

- in ProjectWise at:
pw:\NTPwint1.dot.int.lan:PWMain\Documents\Highway\Design\MethodsSection\ORD
Connect\InterimAndModifiedStandards\
- or on the DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/design/Standard-road-plans>.



Unlike Standard Road Plans, Interim standards do not have prior FHWA approval. They must be included in the plans as detail sheets. Do not include them in Tab 105-4; instead, include them in the Index of Sheets.

Do not modify Interim Standard Road Plans without discussing the modifications with the [Methods Engineer](#). If modifications are necessary, remove the word “INTERIM” from the title and replace with the word “MODIFIED”, see Figure 2.

INTERIM		REVISION	
		10	05-16-14
STANDARD ROAD PLAN		TC-61	
		SHEET 1 of 5	
REVISIONS: Removed 20' C/C spacing of TLSS on page 2.			
 APPROVED BY DESIGN METHODS ENGINEER			
TWO-LANE, TWO-WAY OPERATION			

The previous revision date is replaced with the release date and the revision number is updated.

Figure 1: Interim standard road plan title block.

Modifications of Standard Road Plans

When a standard road plan needs to be modified to fit a project specific design situation, change the standard title block as shown in Figure 2.

MODIFIED	
MODIFICATIONS: Explanation	
Describe changes made to the Standard Road Plan here. Descriptions should include all changes, but be general enough to fit the space allowed.	
TWO-LANE, TWO WAY OPERATION	
TC-61	SHEET 1 of 5

Turn off levels
dsnStdBlock and
dsnStdBlockNotModified

Turn on level
dsnstdModifiedBlock

Figure 2: Modified standard road plan title block.

Modified standard road plans are generally included in the U sheets of the project plans and in the Index of Sheets. Refer to Section [1F-21](#) for cases where modified standard road plans are not to be included in the U sheets. They are also to be listed in the certification block that is signed by the Design Engineer in charge of the plans.

Chronology of Changes to Design Manual Section:

001E-005 Standard Road Plans

10/31/2022	Revised Revised CADD file location and process for creating modified standards.
6/25/2019	Revised Updated hyperlinks. Updated header logo and text.
8/17/2016	Revised Clarified why Interim standards are included in the plans. Clarified Interim standards are included in the Index of Sheets and not in Tab 105-4.
1/22/2015	Revised Revised Figures 1 and 2 to replace renumbered standard. Deleted language stating revision packets will be printed and mailed.
11/30/2011	Revised Added 'Refer to Section 1F-21 for cases where modified standard road plans are not to be included in the U sheets.'.
1/29/2010	Previously Updated