



**Highway Safety & Design Engineering Instructions (HSDEI)**

**Distribution:** Highway Division, Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Chief of Contract Administration, American Council of Engineering Companies of Vermont

**Approved:** Michael J. Fowler **Date:** 7/6/2015  
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Acting Highway Safety & Design Program Manager

**Subject:** 11 Foot Lane Width

**Administrative Information:**

- Effective Date:** HSDEI 15 – 103 shall be effective from the date of approval.
- Superseded HSDEI:** Not applicable.
- Exceptions:** Not applicable.
- Disposition of HSDEI Content:** The content of HSDEI 15–103 will be incorporated into a future revision of the Vermont State Standards.

**Purpose:**

Currently the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) utilizes the “Vermont State Standards” to determine appropriate lane and shoulder widths for construction projects. Roadway characteristics such as functional classification, design speed, and traffic volume are considered when determining the lane and shoulder widths, resulting in a range of acceptable widths.

The “Vermont State Standards” provides a range of lane and shoulder widths for urban roadways and minimum lane and shoulder widths for rural roadways (for each roadway classification). While these ranges and minimums provide for adequate safety and service for their respective roadway classification they also allow for designers to use the high end of the range or go above the minimum widths. When these greater widths are used shoulder widths are typically reduced, resulting in a shoulder width that is less than ideal for bicycle traffic. As VTrans recognizes that bicycling is an integral component of Vermont’s transportation system HSDEI 15-101 is intended to provide design guidance that will assist designers with balancing lane and shoulder widths for motor vehicles and bicycles alike.

**Technical Information:**

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The lane width is defined as the distance between the center of the roadway (center of the centerline) and the edge of traveled way (center of edgeline). Vermont state highways should have a maximum lane width of 11 (eleven) feet for all directions of travel. Note that this is a recommended maximum width and if the “Vermont State Standards” indicate that wider lane widths are required based on specific roadway characteristics, that width shall govern. When 11 (eleven) foot lanes results in a decrease in lane width the shoulder width shall be increased resulting in no change in the overall paved roadway width.

HSDEI 15-103 shall be applicable to all VTrans projects, including maintenance paving activities, where lane delineation is taking place over 2600 continuous linear feet.

## **Implementation:**

The content of HSDEI 15-103 is to be implemented beginning immediately.

## **Transmitted Materials:**

Not applicable.