

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

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TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, CHARLES H. THOMPSON, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and custodian of the official records, do hereby certify that the rule, relating to **design standards for existing town roads**, was duly approved and adopted by this Department on July 27, 1992.

I further certify that this copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this Department and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Department of Transportation at 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, in the City of Madison, Wisconsin, this 27 day of July, 1992.

Charles H. Thompson

CHARLES H. THOMPSON
Secretary

IN THE MATTER OF a rule CREATING
Chapter Trans 204, Wisconsin Adminis-
trative Code, relating to design standards for
existing town roads.

ORDER ADOPTING RULE

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Analysis Prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: s. 86.266, Stats.

STATUTE INTERPRETED: s. 86.266, Stats.

General Summary of Rule. The rule provides town officials with the uniform minimum design standards required by the Department for the improvement of existing town roads required by s. 86.266, Stats., which was created in 1991 Wis. Act 39, effective August 15, 1991.

These standards provide minimum roadway width dimensions for town road improvement projects and minimum structural capacities and roadway widths for existing bridges to remain in place.

The design criteria are presented in tables with traffic volume and design speed as variables relating design classes to roadway width dimensions. The width requirements increase with traffic volume and design speed. Two tables of roadway width dimensions are provided. Table A is for reconstructed town roads where widening of the roadway to widths warranted for new roads is practical as well as cost effective. Table B is for resurfacing and reconditioning of existing roads where only minor widening is warranted.

Design criteria are provided in Table C for evaluating the adequacy of existing bridges. Traffic volume is again used as an indicator of road use and importance. Existing bridges which do not meet the minimum standards must be evaluated for possible replacement, widening or rehabilitation. If replaced, the bridge must be designed to meet the standards for new bridges.

The rule authorizes the Secretary of the Department to evaluate and approve requests for exceptions to the standards.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis. The rule will have no adverse effect upon small businesses.

Fiscal Estimate. The rule would increase town road construction costs by \$40 million assuming that all town roads would be improved to comply with the design standards. The expected impact is that fewer miles of town road would be improved in those towns which have substandard roads rather than an increase in annual costs for those townships. Town governments will decide which roads will be improved and the schedule for their improvement. Many of the town roads that do not now meet the standards may be simply maintained rather

than improved because they carry very low traffic volumes and to improve them would not be cost effective. The increased cost for town road construction would be offset to a large extent by public benefits in the form of increased travel safety and road life.

TEXT OF RULE

Under the authority vested in the state of Wisconsin, department of transportation, by s. 86.266, Stats., the department of transportation hereby adopts a rule interpreting s. 86.266, Stats., establishing uniform minimum design standards for the improvement of existing town roads.

SECTION 1. Chapter Trans 204 is created to read:

CHAPTER TRANS 204

EXISTING TOWN ROAD IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS

TRANS 204.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish uniform minimum design standards for the improvement of existing town roads, as required by s. 86.266, Stats.

TRANS 204.02 DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Average daily traffic" or "ADT" means the total traffic volume during a stated period divided by the number of days in that stated period; unless otherwise specified, the stated period is one year.

(2) "Bridge rehabilitation" means the preservation or restoration of the structural integrity of an existing bridge as well as work to correct safety defects.

(3) "Bridge replacement" means building a new bridge to replace an existing bridge.

(4) "Design speed" means the maximum safe speed that can be maintained over a specified section of a highway when conditions are so favorable that the design features of the highway govern.

(5) "Improvement" means a town road construction project with a projected design life of at least 10 years.

(6) "Improvement level" means the type of construction improvement. It can range from resurfacing to complete reconstruction of a town road.

(7) "Load posted" means the placement of regulatory signs at a bridge indicating the safe load carrying capacity of the bridge.

(8) "Recondition" means work in addition to resurfacing, and includes pavement widening, shoulder paving, and improvement of an isolated grade, curve, intersection or correction of a sight distance problem to improve safety.

(9) "Reconstruction" means total rebuilding of an existing town road to improve maintainability, safety, geometrics and traffic service.

(10) "Resurfacing" means placing a new surface, exclusive of seal coating, on an existing roadway to provide a better all weather surface, a better riding surface, and to extend or renew the pavement life.

(11) "Roadway" means the portion of a highway, including shoulders, for vehicular use.

(12) "Shoulder" means the portion of a roadway that is contiguous to the traveled way and is used primarily for vehicular stopping in an emergency.

(13) "Traveled way" means the portion of the roadway designed for movement of vehicles exclusive of the shoulders.

(14) "Usable bridge width" means the clear width between curbs or rails, whichever is less.

TRANS 204.03 TOWN ROAD STANDARDS. (1) The minimum design standards for each of the town road improvement levels are as shown in the following tables:

TABLE A--RECONSTRUCTION

TRAFFIC VOLUME			ROADWAY WIDTH DIMENSIONS IN FEET		
Design Class	Current ADT	Design Speed MPH	Traveled Way	Shoulder	Roadway
T1	Under 250	40	20	3	26
T2	250 - 750	50	22	4	30
T3	Over 750	55	24	6	36

TABLE B--RESURFACING AND RECONDITIONING

TRAFFIC VOLUME			ROADWAY WIDTH DIMENSIONS IN FEET		
Design Class	Current ADT	Design Speed MPH	Traveled Way	Shoulder	Roadway
TR1	Under 250	---	18	2	22
TR2	250 - 400	40	20	2	24
TR3	401 - 750	50	22	2	26
TR4	Over 750	55	22	4	30

NOTE: Examples of resurfacing and reconditioning improvements which may be appropriate for existing town roads include, but are not limited to, pavement rehabilitation; widening lanes and shoulders; replacing bridge elements to correct structural deficiencies; bridge deck overlays; bridge and culvert replacement; and other related improvements such as minor grading, subgrade work and correction of drainage problems.

(2) The geometry of the town road shall be designed to safely accommodate vehicles traveling at the design speed selected for the road improvement.

(3) The minimum design standards for existing town bridges are as shown in the following table:

Effective Date. This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22(2), Stats.

Signed at Madison, Wisconsin, this 27 day of July, 1992.

Charles H. Thompson

CHARLES H. THOMPSON

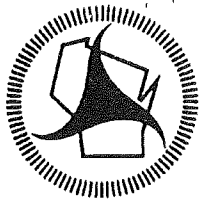
Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Charles H. Thompson
Secretary

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
P. O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

July 28, 1992

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Mr. Gary Poulson
Assistant Revisor of Statutes
119 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
2nd Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53703


RE: **CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 92-33**

In the Matter of the Adoption of **TRANS 204**, Wisconsin Administrative Code, relating to design standards for existing town roads.

Dear Mr. Poulson:

Enclosed for filing, pursuant to s. 227.20, Wis. Stats., is a certified copy of **CR 92-33**, an administrative rule relating to the above-mentioned matter. This rule is submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,


Julie A. Johnson
Paralegal

Enclosures

cc: Tom Walker
Dorothy Kapke
Jim McDonnell
Fred Ross
Ron Cook