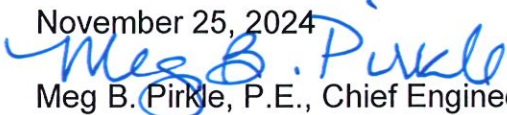




Interoffice Memo

DATE: November 25, 2024
FROM: 
Meg B. Pirkle, P.E., Chief Engineer
TO: Divisions of Engineering, Field Services, Program Delivery, P3, Office of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Drainage Design Policy Manual

The Drainage Design for Highways manual (DDHM) has been rewritten and is being reintroduced as the “**Drainage Design Policy Manual**” (DDPM). The purpose of the revision is:

- 1) to make the manual a policy focused document,
- 2) to specify the standard drainage criteria, and
- 3) to reformat the document in the style of the Design Policy Manual (DPM) using clear, and consistent, directive language.

Currently, the DPM states that the entirety of the DDHM is a standard. In an effort to reduce the required variance documentation, the DDPM defines just nine GDOT standard drainage criteria as listed below.

- 1) Headwater Clearance, Design Storm
- 2) Headwater Clearance, Check Storm
- 3) Freeboard, Bridge
- 4) Freeboard, Road Subgrades Adjacent to a Bridge
- 5) Backwater, Bridge
- 6) Gutter Spread, Roadways
- 7) Gutter Spread, Bridges
- 8) Inlets and Manholes Inside of Travel Lanes
- 9) Minimum Depth of Cover, Culvert/Storm Drain

Additional information about the GDOT standard drainage criteria can be found in Chapter 2 of the DDPM.

A decision to deviate from the policies added to the Drainage Design Policy Manual shall require a comprehensive study by an engineer and the prior approval of a Design Variance from the Chief Engineer.

The DDPM should be implemented on all projects with a Concept Approval date after January 2, 2025. All other projects should continue to use the applicable version of the Drainage Design for Highways manual.

The following two documents are being published in support of the DDPM:

1) Stormwater Design Guide (SDG)

- a. DDHM, Chapter 9 - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines
- b. DDHM, Chapter 10 - Post-Construction Stormwater Design Guidelines
- c. DDHM, Appendix H – MS4 Areas
- d. DDHM, Appendix J – Geo-Hydrologic Assessment

2) Guidance for Hydrologic & Hydraulic Studies (GHHS)

- a. DDHM, Chapter 12 - Requirements for Hydraulic Design Studies
- b. DDHM, Appendix B - FEMA Coordination, Regulations, and Documentation
- c. DDHM, Appendix I - Additional Bridge Information
- d. Hydrologic & Hydraulic Report Template
- e. Hydrologic & Hydraulic Letter of Concurrence Request Template

The manual is published on R.O.A.D.S. webpage at:

<https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/pages/DesignManualsGuides.aspx>

This policy may affect other GDOT published documents. Further updates to GDOT guidance will be published over the next few months and notice provided to Project Managers and Design Phase Leaders. If you have any questions concerning the Drainage Design Policy Manual please email drainagemanual@dot.ga.gov, or contact Luis Vazquez, P.E. at lvazquez@dot.ga.gov or (404) 631-1623.

DGP:MBM:dm