



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

**Stephen Brich**  
Commissioner

December 17, 2018

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Virginia Department of Transportation Preliminary Engineering Design Staff

Re: A Policy on Design Standards—Interstate System, May 2016

The FHWA is revising § 625.4(a)(2) to replace the reference to the January 2005 edition of A Policy on Design Standards—Interstate System with the May 2016 edition. This Policy is a comprehensive manual to assist State DOT's and local agencies in administration, planning, and educational efforts pertaining to design formulation for projects on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate).

The updated guide clarifies ambiguities in the prior edition and provides additional flexibility regarding the design traffic volumes to be accommodated. It increases the median width in rural areas to reduce cross-median crashes and adds recommendations about extended access control and multimodal considerations at interchanges.

The incorporation by reference of this and other publications listed in the rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of December 3, 2018.

Therefore effective December 3, 2018, The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) adopted, in whole, the 2016 edition of the AASHTO A Policy on Design Standards—Interstate System.

The new interstate standards will be required for all projects that have not yet achieved PE authorization as of December 3, 2018.

Revisions will be made to the Road Design Manual (RDM) in January 2019 to reflect the recent updates. If you have any questions or comments regarding this memo, please contact the State Geometric Engineer, Joseph Koscinski Jr., P.E., at (804) 225-3934.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan H. Keen'.

Susan H. Keen, P.E.

State Location and Design Engineer