



Minnesota Department of Transportation

State Aid for Local Transportation

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 02-SA-02

To: County Engineers
Municipal Engineers
Consulting Engineers

From: Julie Skallman
State Aid Engineer

(651) 296-9872

Subject: Transmittal of "Comment Draft"
Minnesota State Aid Roundabout Guide (2002)

In June of 2000 the FHWA published Roundabouts: An Informational Guide (2000). A Minnesota Roundabout Committee consisting of four county engineers, four city engineers, and three MnDOT trunk highway staff was formed to develop policy concerning roundabout usage and design in Minnesota. The committee developed the attached "comment draft" of the draft Minnesota State Aid Roundabout Guide (2002). The "comment draft" is provided for your use and review over the next year or so. Your comments as engineers, designers, construction personnel, or maintenance personnel should be forwarded to Paul Stine, State Aid Operations Engineer (651-296-9973; FAX 651-282-2727; Paul.Stine@dot.state.mn.us). These comments will be the basis for future revisions.

The draft Minnesota State Aid Roundabout Guide (2002) is not intended to replace the FHWA guide. It is a summarization of certain sections of the FHWA guide with policy developed specifically for roundabouts on Minnesota's State Aid system. References to the FHWA guide are found throughout the draft Minnesota State Aid Roundabout Guide (2002). Designers should become familiar with the full text of the FHWA guide before planning or designing roundabouts. Eventually an experienced designer may only need to refer to the FHWA guide as much as the "Green Book" is referred to while using the Road Design Manual.

It is hoped that the guide will develop public acceptance of roundabouts by defining their appropriate usage, by providing a consistent driver experience, and by fostering design/maintenance success by updating the draft guide in response to user feedback. The draft guide will also help communities understand which situations are not appropriate for roundabouts on the state aid system.

Effective immediately, State Aid plans that include roundabouts that are submitted for approval shall require a Roundabout Justification Report (RJR) and intersection layout. The District State Aid Engineer (DSAE) will review the RJR and layout. Until State Aid Rules are revised to formally interpret roundabouts as an intersection control device, the RJR will be forwarded to the State Aid Engineer along with a formal variance request. If the RJR is consistent with the guide it may be approved as an Administrative Variance; if not, then a Variance Committee must consider it.

After State Aid Rules are revised, the Minnesota State Aid Roundabout Guide as revised through your comments will become part of the State Aid Manual. At this future time, the DSAE may approve an RJR and layout that is consistent with to the State Aid Manual. If the RJR and layout are not consistent with the State Aid Manual, a variance must be requested.

cc: DSAE DSAA Mohammad Dehdashti Ron Erickson James Rosenow