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CHAPTER 9 **MANUAL UPDATES**

9.1 **PURPOSE**

The purpose of DelDOT's *Development Coordination Manual* is to set forth the requirements of the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation for access to State-maintained roadways and for the planning, design, construction, and acceptance for maintenance of subdivision streets.

The standards and regulations are intended to regulate and control the location, design, and operation of access points and transportation facilities maintained by DelDOT. All commercial entrances, residential entrances, and subdivision streets are to be designed and constructed in accordance with these requirements. These requirements apply to the following:

- A. New subdivisions and land developments,
- B. Changed or expanded subdivisions and land developments,
- C. Any new or modified access onto a State-maintained roadway
- D. Off-site improvements.

Due to the changing nature of operating policies, organizational structures and responsibilities, and design standards, these standards and regulations shall be updated to provide a comprehensive resource in terms of current policies and regulations, in addition to the current state of practice and design standards to engineers, developers and the general public.

The procedures, roles and responsibilities for updating these standards and regulations are set forth in this chapter.

9.2 **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Assistant Director of Planning, Development Coordination, shall be responsible for the content of the *Development Coordination Manual* and for ensuring that it remains up to date. The Assistant Director shall appoint a Development Coordination Manual Panel and a Development Coordination Manual Coordinator to assist with these tasks.

9.2.1 Development Coordination Manual Panel

The Development Coordination Manual Panel shall consist of six to ten selected DeIDOT personnel with demonstrated expertise in current policies, design standards, administrative procedures, construction, and inspection of subdivision streets and off-site improvements. Panel members will meet periodically to:

1. Review the adequacy of the Manual in light of state of the art developments,
2. Deliberate the merits of proposed revisions or additions,
3. Determine the format of proposed changes, and
4. Submit recommended changes to the Assistant Director for review and approval.

The panel shall consist of the following:

- Assistant Director, Development Coordination,
- County Coordinator,
- Subdivision Engineer,
- Quality and Process Control Engineer,
- Review Coordinators,
- Representative from the Traffic Section, and
- Public Works Engineers for Canal, Central, and South Districts.

Other key Department employees who have specialized backgrounds and knowledge related to road design, construction, maintenance, and materials may also be included.

9.2.2 Development Coordination Manual Coordinator

The Development Coordination Manual Coordinator is charged with managing the update of the manual and coordinating the activities of the Development Coordination Manual Panel in accordance with Delaware law.

The Coordinator shall notify the panel members of the regularly scheduled meetings and prepare the agenda. Between panel meetings, the panel shall submit all suggested comments on the manual to the Coordinator in the format shown in Figure 9.4.1.a. The Coordinator shall consolidate the comments for discussion purposes and lead the discussion at the meeting. The Coordinator shall attempt to reach group consensus regarding which changes should be made and how they should appear in the *Development Coordination Manual*.

The Coordinator is responsible for preparing all proposed changes to the *Development Coordination Manual* for submittal to the Office of the Registrar of Regulations for processing. After the conclusion of the registrar process, and formal adoption of the proposed changes, the Coordinator is responsible for preparing the adopted changes in final production format, checking for accuracy, and making the changes available online for all users. The Coordinator shall also maintain a current List of Revisions (see Figure 9.4.1.b), so individuals may check on-line periodically to ensure that they are using the current version of the manual. Revisions will be reflected by the inclusion of the effective date of adoption listed at the bottom of revised sheets.

9.3 TYPES OF CHANGES

Over time, several different types of changes to the manual can be expected. These include:

- Revisions – changing the existing information or the way it is presented through modifications of procedures, techniques, quantities, policies, organizational structure, and/or responsibilities.
- Additions – providing new information about an existing topic or addressing an altogether new subject not currently addressed. This includes the insertion of tables, graphs, and other illustrations to clarify or expand upon the information presented in the text.
- Deletions – removing information that is no longer accurate or relevant.

Regardless of the type of change, it is important that all other chapters, sections, charts, and tables in the manual be carefully reviewed to ensure consistency with the proposed change.

9.4 SOURCES OF CHANGES

Changes to the *Development Coordination Manual* may come from several sources.

- A. One source is that of state of the art developments. This encompasses a broad range of developments in roadway design and practice, including changes in materials and work methods. Most of these changes will be prompted by reports documenting research and development conducted by AASHTO, FHWA, TRB, and other recognized agencies. The Development Coordination Manual Panel should regularly review these publications and discuss the merits of adopting the new or revised criteria.
- B. Another source is that of special provisions, memorandums, or oral instructions. These often evolve into standard but unofficial practices and procedures. The Coordinator shall assemble, consolidate, standardize, and incorporate them into the manual, making them official and putting them at the disposal of all users in the list of users.
- C. Changes in organization and management often trigger the need for changes. When the organizational structure and/or operating policies change, the responsibilities and relationships of organizational units usually need redefinition. Such changes must be clearly documented in the *Development Coordination Manual*.
- D. Those individuals who regularly use the *Development Coordination Manual* can provide valuable assistance by identifying needed updating and improvements. They do this individually by submitting their personal suggestions, and collectively by demonstrating which parts of the manual are most used, which need expansion or simplification, and which parts are seldom used. Agricultural Production Operations (Within Structures).

9.4.1 Procedures for Making Changes

Changes to the *Development Coordination Manual* may be described as urgent or standard. Urgent changes include those of a critical nature that call for immediate updating of the manual and implementation of new criteria or procedures. Standard changes are those that can be collected over a

period of time for publication at regularly scheduled intervals. No changes to the *Development Coordination Manual* will be made except in accordance with Delaware Law. All substantive changes must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar of Regulations and are subject to the registrar process.

Making changes too frequently may result in confusion and error. Standard changes shall be made at a minimum of every three years in accordance with Executive Order 36. Even urgent changes should not be made too often.

The Development Coordination Manual Panel will meet as needed. Individuals who wish to propose changes shall notify the Manual Coordinator well in advance of the meeting so that he/she can include them on the meeting agenda.

When an urgent change is proposed or otherwise becomes apparent, the Coordinator shall call a special panel meeting to consider whether the change is indeed urgently needed, and if so, to determine the final published form of the change, and obtain approval prior to following DelDOT's procedure for submitting the agreed upon changes to the Office of the Registrar of Regulations.

Drafts of newly proposed or revised material shall be submitted to the Assistant Director of Planning, Development Coordination, for review and approval. In the case of significant changes, the Assistant Director shall consult with the Division Director and get approval from the Secretary.

Changes to the *Development Coordination Manual* shall be written (and illustrated) in the same style as the original text. Uniform language and sentence style will preserve the uniformity of the presentation, and be more understandable to the reader. The Coordinator shall take the lead in ensuring that updated material is clear and concise.

When revisions are made to the manual, the revision date shall be clearly shown at the bottom of all pages. For example, Effective March 2015.

Development Coordination Manual users shall be encouraged to use the most up to date online version.

When revised materials are published, changes in the text and illustrations shall be summarized.

Figure 9.4.1-a - (Sample Form — Suggested Revision to the Development Coordination Manual)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u> <u>Development Coordination Manual</u></p> <p><u>MEMO TO: SUBDIVISION ENGINEER</u></p> <p><u>Subject: Revision to the Development Coordination Manual</u></p> <p><u>Date:</u></p> <p><u>Suggested by:</u></p> <p><u>Suggested Change:</u></p> <p><u>Reason for the Change:</u></p> <p><u>Back-up Source Data:</u></p>
