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Sent: 11-26-04

Subject: On-Call minor revisions to New R/W design requirements on R/W plans

This email is to explain the R/W Plans Section's policy concerning the above subject. For some situations, the R/W Plans Section authorizes the R/W Plans On-Call Consultants to make minor revisions to the new R/W requirements that they receive.

Below are the most common examples of when it is appropriate to make minor revisions to the new R/W requirements.

1. Moving the new R/W corners to be at the nearest whole foot station, and offset, from the referenced centerline. Generally the rule is to move it to the closest even foot, unless, the rounding makes the area of acquisition smaller and the new R/W line gets too close to a new improvement (culvert, slope line, wall etc). This example is more appropriate for those situations where the new R/W is more or less intended to be parallel to the controlling centerline and/or corridor. It is not appropriate to move the corner when the new R/W is a more "random" line that has no apparent intent or geometrical relationship to the controlling centerline, such as what we have seen on the newer MAG projects, or, when it is clear that the location of a particular corner is being controlled by a specific feature or intent.

2. When the new R/W area is a small to medium-sized square or rectangle, modify the perpendicular sidelines to be 45 degree tapers into the existing R/W line. While this will increase the area to be acquired, it is generally better for maintenance access purposes. While most Districts accept the 45 degree taper, a few of them do not. The R/W Plans Section will provide feedback to the On-Call on this issue on a project by project basis.

3. Removing small or unnecessary angle points. This generally will increase the size of the area acquired, but will reduce the number of monuments and labels. While this modification is quite subjective and will likely require direction from the R/W Plans Section on a project by project basis, there are some more obvious situations that the On-Call can recognize and modify. An example of a more obvious situation is when after receiving the new R/W requirements from the Design Consultant, they have a new R/W layout for a particular area as follows: Corner 1 - Sta.10+00, 50' Rt.@exist.R/W line Corner 2 - Sta.10+00, 85' Rt. Corner 3 - Sta.10+05, 85' Rt. Corner 4 - Sta.10+05, 90' Rt. Corner 5 - Sta. 10+50, 90' Rt. Corner 6 - Sta.10+50, 87' Rt Corner 7 - Sta.10+55, 87' Rt. Corner 8 - Sta. 10+55, 50' Rt.@exist.R/W line In this example, we would delete corners 3 and 6, and draw the new R/W line from corner 2 to corner 4 and corner 5 to corner 7.

4. Modifying the new R/W line to be parallel with the existing R/W line. On some projects we may be using a new construction centerline as the reference centerline, and that construction centerline may be more or less parallel with the existing R/W centerline. In this scenario where there is a single or multiple new areas to be acquired that are small to moderate in size, and the new R/W line is running parallel to the construction centerline, it could result in the new R/W line creating a rectangular acquisition figure of say 50' long and 8.15' wide on one end and 7.23' wide on the other end. In this case, modify the new r/w line to be an 8.0' parallel offset to the existing R/W line. Note that in this situation, if using the construction centerline as the reference centerline, the offset label distances on the new R/W corners would not be at an even foot.

5. Modifying the new R/W line from an arc to a chord. This situation is similar to #4 above. In the scenario of a small area to be acquired, and the new R/W line is shown to be an arc that is parallel to the centerline, it is usually appropriate to change the new R/W line into a chord. However, something to take into account is if the resulting chorded line is too close to a design feature. There is a fair amount of subjectivity concerning this situation in regards to what constitutes the cutoff point in either the size of the area acquired and/or the magnitude of the degree of curvature. Direction in many cases may need to come from the R/W Plans Section.

Related to this overall issue is the decision of what centerline will be used as the reference centerline for the stations and offsets. Another email will be forthcoming to explain that general policy.

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