Chapter 1105
Design Element Selection

1105.01 General
Design elements are specific components associated with roadway design, such as lane widths, shoulder widths, alignments, clear zone, etc. Design controls (see Chapter 1103) are carefully chosen and used to determine the dimensions of design elements. The relative effect that a given design element will have on performance will depend on the selected design controls and context identification. For more information, see the guidance document section titled *The Research Summary of Different Design Elements on Performance.*

1105.02 Selecting Design Elements
Design elements that are included in a project are documented in the *Basis of Design.* Include the design elements that are changed by the project. (See Chapter 1100 for more information about Basis of Design.)

An element is changed if one of the following applies:

- A new element is added
- An existing element is removed or relocated
- A dimension - such as a width - is modified

A design element that is not changed is not documented in the Basis of Design.

The next step after selecting design elements is to choose the appropriate dimension for each element. (See Chapter 1106 for information on selecting design element dimensions.)

1105.02(1) Required Design Elements and Criteria
There are also additional legal and policy-based considerations that require a decision of whether or not to include certain design elements in a project; this depends on the program or sub-program. See Exhibit 1105-1 for additional information regarding whether or not to include these design elements in a project.

Exhibit 1105-1 Required Design Elements

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## Exhibit 1105-1 Required Design Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program or Sub-Program</th>
<th>Design Elements</th>
<th>Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)</th>
<th>Signal Hardware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Notes:

1. Include the element in the project and apply policy and guidance provided in the Design Manual chapter(s) or section(s) listed in the cell.
2. Include the element in the project and apply policy and guidance provided in the Design Manual chapter(s) or section(s) listed in the cell only when the element is changed as described in Section 1105.02.
3. Consult the Assistant State Design Engineer (ASDE), evaluate the site specific need to determine whether to apply the policy and guidance provided in the Design Manual chapter(s) or section(s) listed in the cell.*
4. Include the element in the project when it is changed as described in Section 1105.02. If the element is to be included, apply the policy and guidance provided in Chapter 1120, as well as that provided in the Design Manual chapter(s) or section(s) listed in the cell.

* The ASDE is responsible for bringing in other expertise as needed from appropriate HQ units such as Traffic, Programming, Planning, etc. to collaborate in the decision to include the element in the project.
1105.03 Related Elements
Design elements can be interrelated. Even if a specific design element has not changed in accordance with the definition in Section 1105.02, consider whether or not the preferred alternative has changed the conditions in a way that may affect the performance of an unchanged element, considering all modes.

Example: A project team proposes to provide a left-turn lane along a portion of their project in order to address a baseline need related to safety for turning traffic, by reducing the width of each highway shoulder. By reducing the shoulder width, the traveled way will be closer to the roadside than in the existing condition.

The project team determines whether the project would adversely affect safety performance due to roadside conditions such as steep slopes or objects in the clear zone along with considering impacts to bike and pedestrian use.

1105.04 Documentation
Document design elements that are changed in Section 5 of the Basis of Design (BOD) form unless the exemptions listed in Section 1100.04(1) apply.

As a design alternative matures over time, it is likely that design elements may be added or dropped through the iterative process inherent with design. It is important to update the Basis of Design documentation with these changes at the various documentation and approval milestones.

The Basis of Design is available to download here: https://wsdot.wa.gov/engineering-standards/design-topics/design-tools-and-support#Tools

1105.05 References
The Research Summary of Different Design Elements on Performance, WSDOT Guidance Document:

WSDOT Guidance Documents (wa.gov)