



## Florida Department of Transportation

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### **ROADWAY DESIGN BULLETIN 10-04**

**DATE:** February 23, 2010

**TO:** District Directors of Transportation Development, District Directors of Operations District Design Engineers, Design Standards Holders, Plans Preparation Manual Holders

**FROM:** David C. O'Hagan, P.E., State Roadway Design Engineer

**CC:** Lora Hollingsworth, Brian Blanchard, David Sadler, Tim Lattner, Robert Robertson, Jeff Caster

**SUBJECT:** Median Landscaping at Intersections Policy

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department herein revises its policy on median landscaping at intersections to be more consistent with our Context Sensitive Solutions Policy (Topic No. 000-650-002-a, November 20, 2008). In the past, landscaping in the median areas adjacent to left turn lanes was limited to ground cover, regardless of whether or not the area was within the limit of clear sight, and regardless of the length of the turn lane. This bulletin allows some flexibility regarding the installation of trees in the median adjacent to left turn lanes. These revisions do not change the requirements to provide intersection sight distance or to maintain a clear sight window.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

This design bulletin revises the requirements for median landscaping at intersections in Index 546 of the 2010 Design Standards. The major changes in design requirements are as follows:

A. **Index 546, Sheet 1 of 6**, shall be revised as follows:

1. *Revise General Note 5, "Trees" as follows:*

Trees: Trees can be installed with sod, pavers, gravel, mulch, ground covers or other Department approved material. The clear sight window must be in conformance with the 'WINDOW DETAIL' modified to attain the height requirements listed in 'Ground Covers' above.

1) Size and spacing shall conform to the tabular values below.

2) Requirements for placement within an intersection median:

i. Horizontal clearance for the mature specimen shall be maintained as specified in Index 700. Specimens whose

- mature trunk diameter is greater than 18 inches shall not be permitted.
- ii. Where no left turn lane is present, size and spacing shall conform to the tabular values. No trees shall be permitted within 100' of the median nose (measured from the edge of pavement).
  - iii. Regardless of whether the intersection is signalized or not, when a left turn lane is adjacent to the median, the following requirements apply:
    - For low speed facilities (design speed less than 50 mph), size and spacing shall conform to the tabular values. No trees shall be permitted within 100' of the median nose (measured from the edge of pavement).
    - For high speed facilities (design speed 50 mph or greater), size and spacing shall conform to the tabular values. No trees are permitted within 200' of the median nose.
2. *Eliminate figure in lower right corner on Sheet 1of 6 titled SPECIAL AREAS LIMITED TO GROUND COVER.*
  3. *Append to General Note 1 the following sentence:  
At intersections listed in the Department's High Crash Intersection Report, designers shall give attention to keeping to a minimum, objects that distract or affect sight distance.*
- B. **Index 546, Sheet 2 of 6**, shall be revised as follows:
  - 1) PICTORIAL, CHANNELIZED DIRECTIONAL MEDIAN OPENINGS:  
*Eliminate requirement that the median adjacent to left turn lane is an "Area limited to ground cover." Retain ground cover only limitation (shadowing) shown on other median and so designate.*
- C. **Index 546, Sheet 5 of 6**, shall be revised as follows: *Eliminate requirement that the median adjacent to left turn lane is an area "Limited to ground cover."*
- D. **Index 546, Sheet 6 of 6**, shall be revised as follows: *Eliminate requirement that the median adjacent to left turn lane is an area "Limited to ground cover."*

#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

These changes are effective on applicable projects beginning with the January 1, 2011 letting, and will be represented in the Design Standards Modifications (2010 Booklet) effective January 1, 2011 (due to be published in July 2010). These changes may be applied immediately to projects let prior to January 1, 2011, however the changes must be detailed in the plans. These changes may also be applied to current construction or maintenance projects when approved/directed by the District Director of Operations.

#### **CONTACTS:**

If you have any questions, please contact:

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