
Chapter 11

Special Profiles

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Chapter 11

Special Profiles

11.1 General

The special profiles sheet shows profiles of pavement edges or gutter flow lines. Special profiles occur at street intersections, ramp termini, curb returns, railroad crossings and roadway or bridge sections requiring special superelevation details. Vertical transitions between roadways and bridges may also require special profiling. All of these areas require special analysis and design to ensure a safe, efficient, well drained, and smooth roadway/bridge system. The special profiles sheet shall show details at close intervals and at a scale large enough to clearly identify all construction details within these areas.

11.2 Intersections

In addition to normal profile grade lines, supplemental profiles and sections at intersections may be necessary to define edge of pavement profiles. Sections showing pavement surface elevations shall be shown for nose points and other critical locations. It is important to develop accurate profiles and sections at locations of curbed channelization to ensure proper drainage.

When plan-profile format is used for intersection details, the profile's horizontal scale shall be the same as that for the plan portion. A vertical scale of 1" = 2' for the profile portion is recommended as it enables intermediate elevations to be determined from the profile with reasonable accuracy. The existing ground line and/or curb line shall be as called for in the **FDOT CADD Production Criteria Handbook**.

For intersections detailed on a plan only format, the profile and sections shall be shown on a separate grid sheet. The standard cross section sheet, available in the FDOT Engineering/CADD Systems Software, should be used. This sheet features a standard grid of five lines per inch, both in the vertical and horizontal. The vertical scale can be altered to ten lines per inch by utilizing a toggle feature in the CADD software.

For street intersections of municipal projects, a scale of 1" = 20' horizontally and 1" = 2' vertically, or 1" = 50' horizontally and 1" = 5' vertically is recommended.

11.3 Curb Returns

Curb return profiles show the profiles of the gutter flow line from the PC to the PT point of the return at an intersection.

Curb return profiles shall be shown on a grid format. They shall be included in the plans set if the required information cannot clearly be shown on the plan-profile sheet or intersection detail sheet, or if extreme grades are involved, rendering the standard curb return profiles (***Index 303*** of the ***Design Standards***) inadequate.

Standard scale used should be 1" = 20' horizontally and 1" = 2' vertically. Other scales may be used provided all construction details are clearly and legibly shown. Each return profile shall be identified and its PC and PT stations shown. Elevations should be shown at appropriate intervals and low and high spots shall be identified by location and elevation.

11.4 Ramps

Ramp profile grades shall be developed along the baseline of each ramp. A profile of the edge of the pavement opposite the baseline shall also be shown. These profiles shall be shown on a grid format. Data required to be shown shall be similar to that required for roadway profile (**Chapter 10** of this volume).

Recommended scales for ramp profiles are: 1" = 20' horizontally and 1" = 2' vertically, or 1" = 40' or 50' horizontally and 1" = 4' or 5' vertically.

Sections at nose points are required. They may be shown using a scale of 1" = 20' horizontally and 1" = 2' vertically.

11.5 Spline Grade

Intersections of ramp pavement with mainline pavement and other sections of pavement within special superelevated zones need special attention, not only during the design phase of the project, but also during construction. Hence, all construction details pertaining to these areas should be clearly and accurately shown in the plans.

Spline grades are often used to show the interconnection and interrelation of the edges of pavement with the mainline edge of pavement. This profile proves to be especially helpful if the mainline pavement is superelevated or within the superelevation transition zone.

A spline grade shall show the elevations at intervals of 20 to 100 feet, depending on the scale. Elevations shall be shown for the outer edge of mainline pavement and inner and outer edges of the ramp pavement at the nose areas.

Grades of the three pavement edges shall be shown on a grid format. Recommended scales are: 1"=20' horizontally, 1"=2' vertically, or 1"= 40' or 50' horizontally and 1"= 4' or 5' vertically.

Grades of each pavement edge shall be joined by smooth splines or simple curves. The three grade profiles shall be clearly labeled and all equality stations indicated. Nose stations shall be flagged and labeled. Scale shall be indicated in close proximity of the profile and shall be clearly visible.

11.6 **Superelevation**

The standard superelevation details (***Indexes 510*** and ***511*** of the ***Design Standards***) may be used for projects which include simple curves. For projects which include reverse curves, or compound curves, or any other situation requiring special superelevation not covered in the standards, the superelevation diagram shall be shown in the plans. Special profile details may be used to design superelevation on multilane facilities, when a simple diagram will not be sufficient.

Complete profile grade line and right and left edges of pavement within the superelevation zone shall be shown on the grid format. A scale of 1"= 20' horizontally and 1"= 2' vertically is recommended for clarity. The begin and end superelevation stations shall be labeled and indicated by a solid vertical line at the appropriate station. A horizontal dimension line shall be utilized to indicate a section in full superelevation.

11.7 At-Grade Railroad Crossings

In addition to normal profile grade lines, supplemental profiles for at-grade railroad crossings may be necessary to define lane lines, edges of pavement, and/or gutter flow lines. It is important to develop accurate profiles to ensure proper drainage.

For at-grade railroad crossings that cannot be adequately detailed on the plan-profile sheets, the profiles shall be shown on a separate grid format. A horizontal scale of 1" = 20' and a vertical scale of 1" = 2' are recommended.