

# Design Standards Letter

**Letter Number: G-1991-18**

**Letter Date: 11/21/1991**

**Effective Date: 11/21/1991**

**Section/Plan No.: None**

**Subject: Pavement Design**

## Body

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**The department is in the process of changing the methods used to design pavements. Specifically, we are moving from the Missouri design method outlined in the Policy, Procedure and Design Manual to the 1986 AASHTO Guide for the Design of Pavement Structures.**

**As a result of this change, we are beginning to see increased use of tied concrete shoulders, and some questions have arisen concerning how to handle these shoulders.**

**Designs with tied concrete shoulders, where the shoulder is intended to be a lane in the foreseeable future, should be dowelled and reinforced identical to the main line pavement. Any shoulders not intended to be a lane should be tied to the pavement slab but not dowelled or reinforced, and the sawed joint spacing should match that on the main line.**

**Districts should inform this office prior to initiation of a pavement type selection study if it is planned to use shoulders for future travel lanes. This is necessary to insure that the correct design for the shoulder is incorporated in the study.**

**Please advise if there are questions concerning the above.**

**dd/pr**