

# Design Standards Letter

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**Section/Plan No.: Interim Guidance and Best Practices**

**Subject: General Letter No. 5, 2006  
Interim Guidance and Best Practices**

## Body

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On January 1, 2006 the second phase of Practical Design began with the publication of the Implementation Guide. This booklet, containing policy guidance for approximately 80% of MoDOT's Design and Construction expenditures, had a limited printing and was posted on the MoDOT website at that time. The second phase information was also discussed, in person, with district design personnel during the months of January and February 2006.

The third phase of Practical Design is now underway as all engineering policy guidance for MoDOT is collected, re-written with respect to practicality, and reassembled as a single document. This document will be completely electronic, and an early, though incomplete version of it should be in distribution around mid-year. The entire new Engineering Policy Guide (EPG) will not be complete until early 2007.

Due in part to the implementation of Practical Design, policies and procedures are evolving rapidly. The Project Development Manual (PDM) has been split into its individual components to be re-written and incorporated into the EPG. As such, it is no longer being updated. The Central Office believes policy change must constantly be communicated with the districts, however, and has instituted an interim means by which this can be accomplished.

Two new links have been added to the external MoDOT website, <http://www.modot.mo.gov/>. The first, <http://www.modot.mo.gov/business/manuals/InterimGuidance.htm>, will contain the interim policy guidance, which previously would have been an update to the PDM. The second, <http://www.modot.mo.gov/business/BestPractices.htm>, will contain helpful lessons learned and best practices in Practical Design. Both links are interim and will be removed when the EPG begins serving the same purpose. Both links should be monitored often during this transitional time.

JJ/ao