



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 20-08

SUBJECT: BDE Manual Revision – Chapter 37

DATE: September 14, 2020

Chapter 37 of the BDE Manual has been revised to update the requirements for studies in conjunction with new and revised access to freeways, as described below. Please see Chapter 37 of the BDE Manual on-line to view the revisions.

Background

The text throughout Section 37-1 has been modified to provide a more abbreviated approach, in line with current FHWA requirements, for the studies required when new or modified interchanges are proposed either as stand-alone improvements or as part of larger projects along freeways.

Section 37-1.02 has been revised to eliminate much of the past guidance on when interchanges should be considered along expressways. Instead, reference is made to Section 45-1.03, where the decision-making process for the treatment of crossroads at expressways has recently been modified.

The study documentation and approval process requirements for new or revised access to interstates has been streamlined in Section 37-1.03. It is now fully consistent with FHWA reporting requirements as updated in May of 2017.

Section 37-1.03(b) updates the analysis requirements for access revisions to be reviewed only by BDE. The extent of both capacity and safety assessments is now better defined. HCS capacity and HSM safety performance analyses are required whenever elements are proposed to be altered in such a way that degradation could potentially occur in either area. Depending on the new elements proposed operational and safety improvements may be expected and be demonstrated through these analyses.

Section 37-1.03(d) describes the joint FHWA/BDE processes for reviewing and approving proposed Interstate access changes, and it has been modified slightly to clarify roles.

In Section 37-1.03(e) the specific documentation required for Access Justification Reports (AJRs) is described in light of 23 CFR 450 and 23 CFR 771, as well the May 2017 FHWA reporting requirements update. Twenty "points" remain for the AJR documentation and format.

FHWA requires the inclusion of only two of these points in the AJR:

- Access Connections and Design, which requires a public road connection and the inclusion of all traffic movements, and detailed documentation if all movements cannot be served.
- Operational and Safety Analyses, which has been revised to change certain past requirements from “shall” to “should” statements. The need for both operational (HCM) and safety (HSM) analyses, and comparisons to statewide crash rates, are now incorporated.

Within the other eighteen points in the AJR additions in documentation are identified in several other areas, including the following:

- The option for assessing multiple alternatives, particularly any focused on local road improvements;
- The need to describe potential mitigation for any operational or safety degradation that could otherwise occur;
- The potential for supplementing HCS analyses with modeling methods approved by both FHWA and BDE.



Jack A. Elston, P.E.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Design and Environment