




Highway Safety & Design Engineering Instructions (HSDEI)

Distribution: Highway Division, Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Chief of Contract Administration, American Council of Engineering Companies of Vermont

Approved:  _____ **Date:** 4/26/2016
Jesse A Devlin, P.E.,
Highway Safety & Design Program Manager

Subject: Safety Edge Implementation

Administrative Information:

Effective Date: HSDEI 16 – 101 shall be effective from the date of approval.

Superseded HSDEI: HSDEI 16 – 101 shall supersede HSDEI 14-001.

Exceptions: Not applicable.

Disposition of HSDEI Content: The content of HSDEI 16–101 will be incorporated into a future revision of the of the Roadway Design Manual and/or other applicable design guidance documentation.

Purpose:

For years, motorists have encountered a common situation along Vermont’s roadways which in most cases is not severe but can lead to hazardous situations. The condition is a vertical drop at the edge of the pavement. When a driver strays from the paved section of the roadway and the tire drops off of the pavement, a hazardous situation can result, as the driver attempts to return to the pavement. Shoulders over time are consolidated by heavy loads, eroded by storm runoff and worn away by traffic. The resulting vertical drop becomes a hazard as vehicles over correct when returning to the pavement causing them to swerve into an adjacent or oncoming travel lane. The Vermont Strategic Highway Safety Plan identified run-off-road crashes as one of the areas which require emphasis. One such area that can be improved is the pavement edge. FHWA has been encouraging states to implement a “Safety Edge” on the outer edge of pavement. This treatment has been shown that a vehicle traversing up to a 6”, 1:1.5 sloped drop will react similar to a vehicle traversing a ¾ inch vertical drop.

Technical Information:

VTrans will implement the “Safety Edge” on all projects in the following manner. Designers should add the “Safety Edge Details” to all projects that include placement of the wearing course to the edge of pavement. This detail will be the currently approved detail as identified at the locations below.

Implementation:

The content of HSDEI 16 – 101 is to be implemented beginning immediately.

Transmitted Materials:

Highway Safety & Design Details:

- [HSD - 400.01 Safety Edge Details](#)

The above Highway Safety & Design Details can be found at the link below:

<http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/pdb/hsd/HS%2526D%20Details>