

**HEADING: GENERAL**

**SUBJECT: DESIGN SPEED**

The use of design speed needs to be clarified now that the posted speed on a highway and the design speed used to design a highway are unrelated. It is also important to differentiate between the "Design Speed" used to design a roadway and the "Design Speed" used to prepare an AASHTO Controlling Design Criteria Report.

**DESIGN SPEED FOR COMPLETION OF THE AASHTO CONTROLLING DESIGN CRITERIA REPORT:**

The design speed used to review existing roadway features is based upon the 1994 AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets and ADOT's March 1996, Draft Procedural Guide for Review of the AASHTO Controlling Design Criteria on Existing ADOT Roadways. This should be referenced in the AASHTO Controlling Design Criteria Report and in SECTION B- BACKGROUND of the Project Assessment as: "The recommended AASHTO minimum design speed is \_\_\_\_\_ km/h."

**DESIGN SPEED FOR ROADWAY DESIGN:**

The design speed used for designing elements of a section of highway is based upon The Arizona Department of Transportation Roadway Engineering Group 1996 Roadway Design Guidelines. The design speed is discussed and identified in Chapter 100 - Design Criteria. New roadway features should be designed according to this design speed. In the scoping document, this design speed should be referenced as: "The Roadway Design Guideline design speed used for preparation of this Project Assessment was \_\_\_\_\_ km/h." This information should be included in SECTION D - DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS of the Project Assessment, when appropriate. This will help clarify project intent, assist project reviewers, and minimize comments and rework. The detail and amount of information to be included is left to the judgment of the scoping document author. In some cases, such as for simple pavement preservation projects with minimum proposed safety improvements, it may not be necessary to reference a design speed.