Project Insights and Best Practices for MaineDOT Highway Design
Session 1: June 26, 2018

Purpose
To provide a learning opportunity for designers to share their own project specific and general experiences, and receive clarification and answers to questions related to MaineDOT Policies, Engineering Instructions (EI's), and Design Guidance, with the intent of improving the overall quality and consistency of the Highway Design process, submissions received from consultants and internal MaineDOT Highway design teams.
Process (1 of 5)

- Idea originally raised during a Highway Subcommittee Meeting regarding:
  - potential lack of consistency of design submissions
    (including different submissions from the same consultant)
  - passing down/sharing of information with newer staff
  - sharing of information between consultants
- The subcommittee felt this warranted further exploration and took it on as a goal.
- Subcommittee members involved in initial discussions:
  - Tony Grande – VHB
  - Don Ettinger – Gorrill Palmer
  - Dale Mitchell – HNTB
  - Kevin Ducharme – TY. LIN

Process (2 of 5)

- Topics Covered were mainly based on the Highway Design Guide:
  1. Pre-Scoping or General Policy Discussion Points
  2. Typical Sections
  3. Alignment (H/V)
  4. Geometric Layout
  5. Drainage
  6. Cross Sections
  7. Guardrail
  8. Quantities/Estimating
  9. Geotechnical
Process (3 of 5)

• With this list as the focus, polled our own internal design teams, for:
  • Project-specific experiences worth sharing
  • Design questions or areas where clarification would be helpful
  • Any other topics that may not be listed
• Lists from all four firms were then combined
• Held several meetings, included our experienced designers, shared some project experiences, and vetted through each item on the combined list
• Results were then compressed, and refined for discussion with MaineDOT

Process (4 of 5)

• (3) meetings with MaineDOT, and included our experienced designers
  • September 28, 2017
  • October 20, 2017
  • November 1, 2017

• MaineDOT Highway Program involved in discussions:
  • Brad Foley
  • Steve Bodge
  • Andy MacDonald
  • Atlee Mousseau
  • Shawn Smith
  • Denis Lovely
Process (5 of 5)

- Meetings were very interactive, discussions included:
  - project specific examples,
  - policy discussion points
  - general design issues
  - other issues that came about as a result of discussion

Today’s Meeting

- Review the results
- Interactive discussion
- Meeting feedback included in final document
- Final document available on MaineDOT Highway webpage.
Presentation of Results

Pre-Scoping and General Policy
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (1 of 11)

A. HDR Forms: Is MaineDOT providing the initial HDR Forms already filled out for all projects?

- To be discussed at the Initial Team Meeting
- Any special situations regarding design criteria should be brought up during the meeting.

1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (2 of 11)

B. Signing and Striping Plans: included as part of the consultant’s scope, or determined on a project by project basis?

- Determined on a project by project basis, discuss at Pre-Scoping Meeting
- Detour plans may also need to be considered and included
- At a minimum, should include labels for all striping
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (3 of 11)

C. Development of 3D Model: should this be assumed for every project? Delivery with Final PSE package, or after advertise?

- Assume 3D Model is required (unless told otherwise)
- 3D Model delivered with the Final PSE package
- 3D Models currently being considered for Paving projects
- Published Plans are the “controlling” document where 3D model differs

1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (4 of 11)

D. Right of Way: what level of effort is required for property owner review and coordination?

- At a minimum, Property Owner Reports (POR’s) provided by MaineDOT should be reviewed, and any special considerations noted
- May require meetings with select individual property owners to review the project (this would be on a case by case basis – coordinated with MaineDOT PM)
- Combined MaineDOT/Consultant Team site reviews are typically very helpful, when possible
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (5 of 11)

E. **EI/Design Guidance:** at what point in the design should a recent update be incorporated into a project, and at what point is it considered too late to change?

- Any new guidance should be incorporated, up to PDR
- Beyond PDR, check with the PM
- Decisions should be based on the nature of the update and the significance of the changes

1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (6 of 11)

F. **Truck Climbing Lane Analysis:** should be identified early on if this analysis will be included in a project, or not.

- Project dependent
- Assume Truck Analysis will be required
- Confirm at Initial Team Meeting
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (7 of 11)

G. Pavement Design:

- See Design Guidance – check tables provided based on ESAL’s
- Most pavement designs generally completed by MaineDOT (ME Design)
- Preferably prior to HVAC to save time and redesign efforts.

1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (8 of 11)

H. Engineering and Design Information page on MaineDOT’s website:
   http://www.maine.gov/mdot/edi/

- Good resources on this page
- Check for recent updates
- MaineDOT emails updates to each Highway GCA contact(s)
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (9 of 11)

H. Highway Program
Consultant Information page
on MaineDOT’s website:
http://www.maine.gov/mdot/cpo/highway/
- Checklists/Forms
- Check for recent updates
- MaineDOT emails updates to each Highway GCA contact(s)

1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (10 of 11)

I. Design Exceptions:

- DE’s should be considered as a tool for Practical Design
- They should include a good definition of “mitigation” options
- MaineDOT will provide copy of the final signed DE to consultant, including any approved mitigation, check with PM
1. Pre-Scoping and General Policy (11 of 11)

A. Has there been any discussions with contractors to see if they need/use all the information we are currently providing on the typical sections?

- This question could really be asked about all types of sheets, not just the Typical Section sheets
- Is it possible for some information to be reduced or changed
- MaineDOT is trying to be consistent between Regions for projects
- MaineDOT is going to take a closer look to see what’s really needed
- More info to follow as MaineDOT moves towards electronic submissions

Pre-Scoping and General Policy

Any Additional Questions or Comments?
2. Typical Sections (1 of 7)

B. **Station Ranges**: should transitions be included or leave gaps in between?

- Gaps in between stations are acceptable
- *Don’t try to depict entire project with “Typical” Sections*
2. Typical Sections (2 of 7)

C. Full Depth Shoulder Pavement: used with off-tracking and through intersections (see EI-C14)

2. Typical Sections (3 of 7)

C. Full Depth Shoulder Pavement: used with off-tracking and through intersections (see HDG – Figure 8-10)
2. Typical Sections (4 of 7)

C. Full Depth Shoulder Pavement: used with off-tracking and through intersections (see HDG – Section 13-8.2)

13-8.2 Shoulder Design

Full-depth shoulders are HMA shoulders that have the same cross-sectional thickness and material types as the adjacent travel lane and are designed to have the same design life as the mainline. Full depth shoulders are often an economical alternative if shoulder widths are 4’ wide or less. From a constructability standpoint, these shoulders can be paved concurrently with the mainline, resulting in some potential savings and ease of construction. If shoulder widths are greater than 4’, the recommended thickness of HMA is 3”. Partial-depth shoulders are HMA shoulders that have an HMA thickness less than the adjacent travel lane thickness. For new construction/reconstruction projects, the shoulder surface and intermediate HMA courses correspond to the travel lane HMA course thicknesses. To account for heavy truck wander, the full-depth section should be extended 24 inches into the shoulder.

2. Typical Sections (5 of 7)

C. Full Depth Shoulder Pavement: used with off-tracking and through intersections (see HDG – Section 13-8.2 cont’d)

Some shoulders are subjected to above normal traffic use, such as across from commercial entrances, the inside of curves, including ramps, in intersections, or opposite the leg of “T” intersections. To prevent the HMA on the shoulders from deteriorating prematurely, these locations should have full-depth shoulders even if the traffic information warrants partial-depth shoulders.

Full-depth shoulders should be used for intersections with safety widenings and should begin 20 feet before the Point of Curve (P.C.) and terminate 10 feet beyond the Point of Tangent (P.T.). When safety widenings are not provided, full-depth shoulders should be used 50 feet in advance of the P.C. and end 10 feet beyond the P.T.

Where right-turning traffic may illegally use the shoulder as a turn lane, full-depth shoulders should begin 165 feet in advance of the P.C.

Where large vehicles will have trouble negotiating curves and corners without encroaching onto the shoulders, the designer should use truck templates to determine whether full-depth shoulders should extend beyond the limits given above.
2. Typical Sections (6 of 7)

D. **Hinged Slopes: Design Guidance for Sideslopes and Backslopes**

- See “Sideslopes and Backslopes” Design Guidance 5/16/17 (i.e., 4:1 slope to CZ then hinged to 3:1 slope beyond CZ)

![Hinging Diagram]

2. Typical Sections (7 of 7)

D. **Hinged Slopes: Design Guidance for Sideslopes and Backslopes**

- See EI–C2.1 on Clear Zone (Design Guidelines) 10/17 – information reduced to 2 tables
- Confirm GR fill height - “Sideslopes and Backslopes” Design Guidance 5/16/17 – 20 ft. or greater

![Clear Zone Offset Table]
Typical Sections

Any Additional Questions or Comments?

Alignment (Horizontal/Vertical)
3. Alignment (H/V) (1 of 10)

A. Project Length determination (Title Sheet):

- Based on major construction limits only (begin and end project limits)
- Does not include transitions, or other incidental work

3. Alignment (H/V) (2 of 10)

B. Transitions:

- Gravel section transitions
- 20:1 Taper with Gravel Layer or 50’ Transition (25’ for culvert projects)
- Butt Joints/Surface Layer transition, only at begin/end 25’-50’
- Matching into wheel ruts can be an issue
- Horizontal/Vertical layout transitions
3. Alignment (H/V) (3 of 10)

C. **Superelevation:**

- **EI-C20 (Superelevation Rate)** references use of AASHTO for determination of Superelevation rate
- **Use MaineDOT HDG or AASHTO for Superelevation transitions**

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3. Alignment (H/V) (4 of 10)

C. **Superelevation:**

- **Super Transition Rule of thumb** – max. of 2% in 50’
- **Could also use AASHTO for max. relative gradient** (need to provide explanation)
3. Alignment (H/V) (5 of 10)

C. Superelevation:

- Design Guidance for “High Side Shoulder Rollover” transition
- Transition from normal shoulder cross slope of -4% to -2% must be completed as the superelevated section reaches +4%

3. Alignment (H/V) (6 of 10)

D. Vertical Design:

- Consider matching steeper grades on projects where matching back to existing conditions, to reduce work limits.
- PI Bypass example: lowered fill amount required at southerly limit, by reducing freeway standards with Design Exception for vertical grade.
3. Alignment (H/V) (9 of 10)

E. Pavement Rehab options:

- Type of treatment could affect the vertical alignment
- Need to consider (fluff) inflation on rehabs (spline fit profiles okay)
- Timing of when changes are brought to the Team (i.e., if type of treatment changes at or beyond PIC...and this affects the vertical profile...that is much more significant than having it change at HVAC)
- “Selecting Rehab Options” Memo/Guidance coming soon

3. Alignment (H/V) (10 of 10)

F. Vertical Design:

- Preference to NOT use angle points in profiles at the match point for side roads – try to limit this work to 50’-100’
- Expectations and potential project limitations
- Existing side road Superelevation can sometimes play a role in extending project limits beyond the profile match point for a smooth transition.
- DOT may provide additional guidelines
- Follow up with Highway Program (PM, Reviewer, etc.) prior to submission
Alignment (Horizontal/Vertical)

Any Additional Questions or Comments?

Geometric Layout
4. Geometric Layout (1 of 17)

A. Construction Notes Sheets vs. Notes on Plan sheets

➢ Notes on Plan Sheets

4. Geometric Layout (2 of 17)

A. Construction Notes Sheets vs. Notes on Plan sheets

➢ Separate Notes Sheets preferred
B. Tapers:

- Taper Rates based on standard formulas – see EI-C15 Guideline on Medians and Islands
  - 40 mph and under WS²/60 and
  - 45 mph and above WS
    where W is the width of the shift and S is the posted speed
- Straight line tapers vs. reverse curves (Left-turn tapers)
  Case by case basis

C. Lateral Offset to objects behind curb:

- 1.5’ behind face of curb is allowed for traffic signals, utility poles, etc.
- If Utility Rules are met, DE not required
- Check Clear Zone guidance in EI-C2.1 Clear Zone (Design Guidelines)
4. Geometric Layout (5 of 17)

D. Minimum Curb length (granite); Spec Book and Standard Detail

- Curb lengths are not discussed in the HDG.
- Curb lengths are discussed in the standard specifications (Division 700 Materials, 712.04) - 4' minimum length for Type 1 curb
- Curb lengths are discussed in the standard details – 609(01)

4. Geometric Layout (6 of 17)

D. Minimum Curb length (granite); Spec Book and Standard Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>RADIUS OF CURVE</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>PAID FOR AS</th>
<th>STONE IS CUT OR CAST</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>0 to 60° incl.</td>
<td>4' min.</td>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>Arc to Fit Curve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over 60° to 160°</td>
<td>4' to 6'</td>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Straight Pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0 to 8° incl.</td>
<td>2' min.</td>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>To Fit Curve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over 8° to 30° incl.</td>
<td>12' min. Chord</td>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>Str. Pieces, Radial Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over 30° &amp; Under 160°</td>
<td>2' to 3'</td>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Straight Pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>160° and Over</td>
<td>3' to 6'</td>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Straight Pieces</td>
</tr>
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</table>
4. Geometric Layout (7 of 17)

E. **Lane and Shoulder widths:**

- **Road Diets** - narrower lane widths and less lanes could provide more width for multimodal activities (See Road Diet Guidelines)

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4. Geometric Layout (8 of 17)

E. **Lane and Shoulder widths:**

**Update Coming Soon**

*Start with Engineering Instruction C2 – Bridge and Roadway Widths*

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Priority 1 &amp; 2 Corridors:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel lanes</td>
<td>full depth pavement for 12”, striping 11” to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders</td>
<td>4” to 10”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge width should equal full roadway width</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Priority 3, 4, &amp; 5 Corriders:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel lanes</td>
<td>10” to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders</td>
<td>2” to 6”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge width minimum is 24”, strive for full roadway width</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Priority 6 Corriders and very low volumes roadways (&lt; 400 ADT)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel lanes</td>
<td>10” to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders</td>
<td>6” to 4”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge width consider one lane 14” curb to curb if appropriate, strive for full roadway width</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Geometric Layout (9 of 17)

E. Lane and Shoulder widths:

- Generally using narrower lane and shoulder widths now
- Consider winter maintenance, bicycles, and high truck volumes
- Prefer 12’ CTWLTL
- Try for 4’ minimum shoulder width – discuss with PM/Team
- Truck Lanes – use 11’ or 12’ travel lane widths with 4’ preferred shoulders

4. Geometric Layout (10 of 17)

F. Roadway width (travel way + shoulder to face of guardrail or curb)
(see new El...coming soon)

- General Guidelines (unwritten)
- Provide 16’ from CL to face of GR - locations with GR on one side.
- Provide 17’ from CL to face of GR – locations with GR on both sides.
- Lots of discussion on this topic at regional DOT offices. Information continues to evolve.
4. Geometric Layout (11 of 17)

G. ADA improvements:

- Generally limited to within the project limits
- See MaineDOT ADA Policy; and Design Guidance for curb ramps

Maine DOT ADA Compliance Policy

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Work (Scope)</th>
<th>ADA Improvements Needed</th>
<th>Minimum Improvements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Construction, Reconstruction, or Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Pedestrian facilities constructed or upgraded to meet current ADA requirements within the project limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment, including Sidewalks &amp; Sidewalk Improvements</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No new locations to be awarded public facilities.</td>
</tr>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No new locations to be awarded public facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal Modifications atBIN</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No new locations to be awarded public facilities.</td>
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<td>No new locations to be awarded public facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions/Remodeling</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No new locations to be awarded public facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved By: Joyce Taylor, Chief Engineer
4. Geometric Layout (13 of 17)

G. ADA improvements:

- See MaineDOT Design Guidance for curb ramps

4. Geometric Layout (14 of 17)

G. ADA improvements: Sidewalk width, does or does not include curb width. MaineDOT Standard vs. ADA

- Current DOT Policy – 5’ sidewalk width measured from face of curb (includes curb width). Minimum sidewalk width is 4’. Provide 5’ by 5’ passing spaces every 200’ if sidewalk less than 5’. (see Design Guidance – min. ADA requirements for pedestrian facilities)

- PROWAG – Calls for 4’ minimum sidewalk width measured from back of curb (excludes curb width). Not adopted by FHWA yet.

- Consider sidewalk maintenance and maintenance equipment size when determining sidewalk widths and minimum widths with utilities.
4. Geometric Layout (15 of 17)

G. **ADA improvements**: Sidewalk width, does or does not include curb width. MaineDOT Standard vs. ADA *(See MaineDOT ADA Design Guidance for Pedestrian Facilities)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimum Requirements for EXISTING Pedestrian Facilities</th>
<th>Minimum Requirements for NEW or RECONSTRUCTED Pedestrian Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIDEWALKS</strong></td>
<td>COLUMN A</td>
<td>COLUMN B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Slope</td>
<td>Max. 2.08% (1:48)</td>
<td>Max. 2% (1:50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Width</td>
<td>Min. 3 feet</td>
<td>Min. 5 feet (standard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Width may be reduced to 32 inches for a 24-inch length.</td>
<td>Width may be reduced to 4 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Widths less than 5 feet require 5 foot by 5 foot passing spaces at least every 200 feet.</td>
<td>Widths less than 5 feet require 5 foot by 5 foot passing spaces at least every 200 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>CURB RAMPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max. 8.33% (1:12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Geometric Layout (16 of 17)

G. **ADA improvements**: Retrofit scenarios

- Room for interpretation.
- Balance of pedestrian desire lines and separated crosswalks.
- Sidewalk widths 5’ preferred, 4’ desirable, 3’ minimum
- Curb is included within the sidewalk width *(per MaineDOT)*
- Technical Infeasibility *(form to be filled out)*
4. Geometric Layout (17 of 17)

Any Additional Questions or Comments?
A. Drainage analysis and pipe sizing completed by MaineDOT or by consultant; varies by project.

- Confirm up front
5. Drainage (2 of 17)

B. All drainage pipes crossing side roads should be Opt III or RCP, not underdrain...please confirm.

- UD is okay, confirm with PM and Reviewer

5. Drainage (3 of 17)

C. Underdrain pipe runs from 12” to 30” can be designed to curve with the roadway. Maximum deflection angle, up to 10 degrees per pipe section along curve (confirm with pipe manufacturer specifications). Need to confirm when to have pipe follow curved curb line and when to show straight line pipe connection.

- Show along curb line where possible
- If UD cannot follow curb then consider alternatives, i.e., extend subbase
- Straight line pipe may have ROW impacts
5. Drainage (4 of 17)

D. Consider extending roadway subbase materials further out to eliminate conflicts between proposed UD and existing or proposed utilities, possibly in sharper radius curves also.

- UD could also be moved into the roadway to avoid conflicts, subbase needs to grade towards UD location.
- Coordinate with Team and Utilities before designing around utilities.

5. Drainage (5 of 17)

E. Shallow pipes still use 8’ CB; show sumps deeper than 2’ if basin could be less than 8’?

Details show 4’ cone, could call for 2’ offset cone or flat top with appropriate notes
5. Drainage (6 of 17)

F. F-Basins used in roadway?

- Not preferred
- Can be used in the shoulder
- Use F5 min. for frost

5. Drainage (7 of 17)

G. Cross culvert sizing: 18” min. or location specific? Could be smaller, i.e. on side roads. Closed system could also be < 18”?

Yes to both
5. Drainage (8 of 17)

H. Drainage Structure Type - MH vs. CB B1 w/solid cover

- Manhole & Catch Basin definitions
- CB B1 w/solid cover is preferred wording, check wording in specification

5. Drainage (9 of 17)

I. 3” drop for pipes at CB vs. matching crowns (top of pipes)

- Both are okay
- Try to avoid “Nesting Pipes”
5. Drainage (10 of 17)

J. Pipe Ties:

- Use on RCP only.
- Last two joints shall be tied.
- Shallow cover or other site specific conditions.
- Pipe ties used for all extensions.

5. Drainage (11 of 17)

K. Culvert ends > 36” on 3:1 slopes, considered a hazard?

36” and below not a hazard; no beveled ends
5. Drainage (12 of 17)

L. Riprap driveway ends; Riprap downspouts at end of curb run.

- Riprap at driveway ends: Not required unless needed for grade or stream
- Riprap Downspouts: Only if needed/ based on conditions

5. Drainage (13 of 17)

M. Consideration of “snow basins”; CB at low point in non-curbed areas.

- Possible use in high snow areas; Aroostook County, Western Maine (confirm with PM)
5. Drainage (14 of 17)

N. Design of RCP pipes is rounded to 8’ lengths for design. To avoid the need to cut to shorter lengths in the field.

- 4’ sections are okay to use but need a note that states why you need to use it and the 4’ section should be placed in the middle third of the pipe.
- Must be precast 4’ section (not cut in field).
- Consider Maintenance of Traffic needs when determining pipe lengths.

5. Drainage (15 of 17)

O. In long stretches of open ditch roads (i.e., PI Bypass), consider adding more, smaller culvert crossings to minimize major culvert crossings ultimately reducing the size of culverts at low points in watersheds.

- Within reason
5. Drainage (16 of 17)

P. Large Culvert Designs: Fish passage or wildlife crossing expectations. Box Culvert embedment generally required, fill material varies.

- Work in progress, changes coming from ENV, trying to replicate the existing stream bed
- Habitat Connectivity Training

5. Drainage (17 of 17)

Q. Any max length of UD run?

- No, based on hydraulic review
Drainage

Any Additional Questions or Comments?

Next Steps
Next Steps

- Conduct Session 2...
- Document input/feedback received during these sessions.
- Update the list of topics
- Include additional questions/clarifications
- Confirm answers with MaineDOT
- Provide updated document to all GCA consultants and make available on MaineDOT Highway Design web page.

Questions

Send any additional questions or comments to:
Tony Grande at agrande@vhb.com  (207) 889-3115