



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 25-07

SUBJECT: BDE Manual Revision – Chapter 31

DATE: June 25, 2025

Chapter 31 has been revised to change design speed parameters and add the Safe System Approach. Please see the BDE Manual on-line to view the revisions.

Background

Section 31-2, Speed, has been revised to reflect national research and the AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets on design speed. It introduces Target Speed, the highest operating speed at which vehicles should ideally operate on a roadway in a specific context. These changes are in coordination with the revised Bureau of Operations Policy on Establishing and Posting Speed Limits on the State Highway System.

Section 31-8, Safe System Approach, is a new section. The Safe System Approach, based on national research and FHWA guided implementation, is an effort to reduce potential exposure and conflicts for road users with the aim to reduce crash occurrence and severity. Designing with a Safe System Approach is considering safety in the analysis and decision-making process for speed, geometric design, traffic systems, roadside clear zone and hardware, and operation of the highway.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jack A. Elston", positioned above a horizontal line.

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