GUIDELINES FOR TREE, SHRUB AND GROUNDCOVER PLANTING ON HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY OTHER THAN CONTROLLED ACCESS OR INTERSTATE

The following guidelines for tree, shrub and groundcover planting apply to those State Highway System highways and streets with posted speed limits as indicated below. Planting that involves exceptions to these criteria will be considered on an individual basis.

Distance from Travel Lane

The following are minimum distances from the curb or the edge of travel lanes for new plantings. Where existing tree distances outside curbs or edges of travel lanes have been established, replacement trees may be allowed to conform with established set-back distances.

**35 Miles Per Hour or Less**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Tree TYPE</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curb and Gutter Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>10'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>5'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>1' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder and Ditch Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>12'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>6' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Over 35 Miles Per Hour Through 45 Miles Per Hour**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Tree TYPE</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curb and Gutter Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>15'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>6' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder and Ditch Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>20'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>10'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>8' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Greater Than 45 Miles Per Hour**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Tree TYPE</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curb and Gutter Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>25'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>20'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>10' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder and Ditch Section</td>
<td>Large trees</td>
<td>30'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small trees or large shrubs</td>
<td>20'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small shrubs</td>
<td>15' to foliage line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vertical Clearance

A minimum clearance of 16 ft. above the entire pavement width must be maintained at all times, and also a minimum clearance of 7 ft. above a sidewalk or pedestrian space.

Sight Distances

Shrubs must be kept low, and trees and large shrubs under-trimmed sufficiently to permit clear sight in the area between 2 feet and 6 feet above roadway elevations. Due to widely varying conditions of topography, highway alignment and grade, type and volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, necessary sight distances longitudinally along the highway and in excess of the lateral minimum described above must be individual site determinations.

Selection of Plants

Tall-growing trees should not be selected for planting beneath utility lines and wide-spreading trees should not be used unless there is sufficient width of planting area to accommodate them without continued severe pruning.

Small trees and large shrubs should be used which are adaptable to undertrimming without destroying their desired normal appearance. Only low-growing shrubs are to be used in medians and close to the edge of shoulders to avoid need for continued severe pruning. In some locations, all shrubs should be omitted, but this must be an individual site determination.

In curb and gutter areas, groundcover is permissible between curb and shrubs to avoid a narrow mowing strip.

Pavement Removal

When pavement remains beneath traffic channelization islands, such pavement may not be broken or removed without written permission.

Effect on Mowing and Drainage

Trees should be placed sufficiently far apart, and shrubs should be grouped in beds and mulched in a shape that will facilitate mower operation and avoid excessive mower maneuvering or hand trimming. Plantings are to be minimum of 2 feet behind ditch line in cut sections and 2 feet outside shoulder break in fill sections, or the minimum distance from edge of travel lanes as stated in breakdown of speed limits as shown on Typical Sections, whichever is the greater.

Traffic Operation and Safety

All plantings are to be maintained in a condition which will not interfere with nor endanger either vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
TYPICAL SECTIONS
FOR VARIOUS POSTED SPEED LIMITS
MINIMUM DISTANCES
35 MPH & LESS

CURB AND GUTTER

1' TO FOLIAGE LINE
5' TO & SMALL TREE
10' TO & LARGE TREE

MEDIAN ROADWAY OUTSIDE

SHOULDER SECTION

5' min.

median ditch shoulder break median ditch

2' min.

2' min.

ditch

MEDIAN OR FILL SLOPE ROADWAY OUTSIDE OR CUT SLOPE

NOTES
- MEDIAN MUST BE AT LEAST 30' WIDE BEFORE LARGE TREES MAY BE PLANTED
- PAVEMENT WIDTH MAY VARY
- WHEN WIDTH OF SHOULDERS & DITCHES DO NOT CONFORM WITH THESE TYPICAL SECTIONS, THE 2' MINIMUM DISTANCE BEHIND THE DITCH & 2' MINIMUM DISTANCE OUTSIDE THE SHOULDER BREAK SHALL GOVERN.
GREATER THAN 35 MPH THROUGH 45 MPH

CURB AND GUTTER

6'
8'
15'

MEDIAN      ROADWAY      OUTSIDE

5' min.

MEDIAN OR FILL SLOPE      ROADWAY      OUTSIDE OR CUT SLOPE

5' min.

SHOULDER SECTION

median ditch

5' min.

NOTES

- MEDIAN MUST BE AT LEAST 44' WIDE BEFORE LARGE TREES MAY BE PLANTED
- PAVEMENT WIDTH MAY VARY
- WHEN WIDTH OF SHOULDERS & DITCHES DO NOT CONFORM WITH THESE TYPICAL SECTIONS, THE 2' MINIMUM DISTANCE OUTSIDE THE SHOULDER BREAK & 2' MINIMUM DISTANCE BEHIND THE DITCH SHALL GOVERN.
GREATER THAN 45 MPH

CURB AND GUTTER

MEDIAN | ROADWAY | OUTSIDE

SHOULDER SECTION

MEDIAN OR FILL SLOPE | ROADWAY | OUTSIDE OR CUT SLOPE

NOTES
- MEDIAN MUST BE AT LEAST 60’ WIDE BEFORE LARGE TREES MAY BE PLANTED
- PAVEMENT WIDTH MAY VARY
- WHEN WIDTH OF SHOULDERS & DITCHES DO NOT CONFORM WITH THESE TYPICAL SECTIONS, THE 2’ MINIMUM DISTANCE BEHIND THE DITCH & 2’ MINIMUM DISTANCE OUTSIDE THE SHOULDER BREAK SHALL GOVERN.