

Acceptable Clear Zone Distances (feet)
(Based on AASHTO Roadside Design Guide, 4th edition)

design speed	design ADT	FORESLOPES			BACKSLOPES		
		6:1 or flatter	Steeper than 6:1, up to and including 4:1	Steeper than 4:1	Steeper than 4:1*	4:1 or flatter, up to 6:1	6:1 or flatter
40 mph or less	ADT < 750	7	7	**	7	7	7
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	10	12	**	10	10	10
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	12	14	**	12	12	12
	ADT ≥ 6000	14	16	**	14	14	14
45 – 50 mph	ADT < 750	10	12	**	8	8	10
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	14	16	**	10	12	14
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	16	20	**	12	14	16
	ADT ≥ 6000	20	24	**	14	18	20
55 mph	ADT < 750	12	14	**	8	10	10
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	16	20	**	10	14	16
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	20	24	**	14	16	20
	ADT ≥ 6000	22	26	**	16	20	22
60 mph	ADT < 750	16	20	**	10	12	14
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	20	26	**	12	16	20
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	26	30	**	14	18	24
	ADT ≥ 6000	30	30	**	20	24	26
65 – 70 mph	ADT < 750	18	20	**	10	14	14
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	24	28	**	12	18	20
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	28	30	**	16	22	26
	ADT ≥ 6000	30	30	**	22	26	28

* Backslopes as steep as 2.5:1 can be considered as part of the clear zone, as long as they are relatively smooth and do not contain any fixed objects. Refer to Section 8A-4 of the Design Manual for information regarding backslopes steeper than 2.5:1.

** Since a vehicle traveling on a slope steeper than 4:1 is likely to be diverted to the bottom of the slope, the width of any slope steeper than 4:1 cannot be counted in the clear zone determination. Refer to Section 8A-2 of the Design Manual for information on providing clear recovery areas at the base of steep slopes.