

Preferred 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	10	10	**	10	10	10
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	12	14	**	12	12	12
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	14	16	**	14	14	14
	ADT ≥ 6000	16	18	**	16	16	16
45 – 50 mph	ADT < 750	12	14	**	10	10	12
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	16	20	**	12	14	16
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	18	26	**	14	16	18
	ADT ≥ 6000	22	28	**	16	20	22
55 mph	ADT < 750	14	18	**	10	12	12
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	18	24	**	12	16	18
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	22	30	**	16	18	22
	ADT ≥ 6000	24	32	**	18	22	24
60 mph	ADT < 750	18	24	**	12	14	16
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	24	32	**	14	18	22
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	30	40	**	18	22	26
	ADT ≥ 6000	32	44	**	22	26	28
65 – 70 mph	ADT < 750	20	26	**	12	16	16
	750 ≤ ADT < 1500	26	36	**	16	20	22
	1500 ≤ ADT < 6000	32	42	**	20	24	28
	ADT ≥ 6000	34	46	**	24	30	30

* 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.