

Preliminary Plan Guidelines

For Local Public Agency (LPA) Projects Let by the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT)

Plan Format

Use of the Iowa DOT plan format is strongly recommended; however, except where noted otherwise, use of the Iowa DOT standard plans and details is not required for LPA projects. Use of the Iowa DOT format promotes uniformity and consistency of project plans, which results in lower bid prices because most contractors that bid on projects let by the Iowa DOT are familiar with the Iowa DOT format. It also reduces the amount of effort, and consequently, the cost required to create a set of plans suitable for letting by the Iowa DOT.

Iowa DOT Standard Plans

The Iowa DOT strongly encourages use of its standard plans. When used, standard plans should not be included in the plan set, but instead shall be incorporated by reference.

All of the standard plans listed below may be used on any city or county project. These standard plans are available on-line in either MicroStation format or Adobe Acrobat's Portable Document Format (PDF). Where specific design problems require special solutions, the standard plans may be modified and included in the plans as a detail or detail sheet; however, the standard plan number and revision date shall be removed. Each type of standard plan is further described below.

The [Standard Road Plans](#) have been developed by the Iowa DOT Office of Design to show standardized design features, construction methods, and approved materials to be used in highway construction in the State of Iowa.

The [Standard Culvert Plans](#) have been developed by the Iowa DOT Office of Bridges and Structures. These standard plans include complete details for a variety sizes and configurations of Reinforced Concrete Box (RCB) culverts.

The [Standard Bridge Plans](#) are also provided by the Iowa DOT Office of Bridges and Structures. The Standard Bridge Plans most applicable to local agency projects have been grouped together on the [County Bridge Standards](#) web page. These standard plans include complete details for continuous concrete slab bridges and pretensioned prestressed concrete beam bridges, in a variety of widths, lengths, and spans.

Iowa DOT Road Design Details

The [Road Design Details](#) are available on-line in either MicroStation or PDF format. The Road Design Details contain standard design and tabulation forms, notations, details, and detail sheets. Similar to the standard plans described above, if a Road Design Detail is modified, the number and revision date shall be removed. The types of details included in the Road Design Details are further described below:

Standard Tabulations (100 series) include various tabulations for design data, bid items, and supplementary information. If used, these tabulations and forms shall be inserted on the plan sheets.

Standard Notations (200 series) are standardized notes that may be inserted on the plans as part of the General Notes. Using the Standard Notations saves time in writing the General Notes and promotes uniformity. The General Notes should contain general project information only. Information specific to bid items should be shown in the Estimate Reference Information.

Design Detail Sheets (500 series) are complete plan sheets. They provide details for common roadway items such as drainage appurtenances, fencing, certain pavement or shoulder construction details, traffic barriers and associated appurtenances, and more. If a Design Detail Sheet is used, it shall be included as a separate sheet in the plan set. It shall not be incorporated by reference.

Typical Details (1000 to 9000 series) are individual details. They include details for typical sections, curbs, shoulders, medians, etc. If a Typical Detail is used, it shall be placed on a plan sheet. It shall not be incorporated by reference.