

Construction versus Maintenance

[Iowa Administrative Code, Transportation \[761\], Chapter 178](#), defines the following terms as they pertain to project cost reporting requirements for cities and counties:

- **Construction:** means the building or development of a road, street, bridge or culvert in a new location when: The new location deviates substantially from the existing alignment, and the result is an entirely new road or street for the greater part of the length involved.
- **Reconstruction:** means a significant change to the existing type of road, street, bridge or culvert or its geometric and structural features. Some realignment and the use of current design criteria may be involved.
- **Improvement:** means a betterment to a road, street, bridge or culvert. The work increases the value of the facility and enhances the facility, its traffic operations or its safety beyond the original design. The work would not be so extensive as to be classified as construction or reconstruction, but it could involve rehabilitation, restoration or resurfacing (3R) type projects.
- **Repair or Maintenance:** means the preservation of a road, street, bridge or culvert so that it is in sound or proper condition. The work may include minor replacements and additions necessary to restore the road, street, bridge or culvert to its originally built condition with essentially the same design.

This Attachment to I.M. 2.010 provides examples of the types of work that fall within the definitions listed above.

Work Classed as Construction or Reconstruction:

Road and Street

- Building new roads or streets. This excludes developers' subdivisions unless there is local public agency money involved.
- Removal of an old roadbed and rebuilding to a new grade, alignment, profile, and cross-section for 500 continuous feet or more.
- Widening an existing road or street sufficiently to change its geometric type, as from 2-lane to 3- or 4-lane, or from 4-lane to 6-lane in accordance to current design criteria.
- Addition of 500 continuous feet or more of frontage road.
- Surfacing of roads, streets or shoulders with material higher in quality than the original for 500 continuous feet or more. Includes surfacing of granular or seal coat roads or streets with hot mix asphalt or PC concrete.
- First erection of large traffic or directional sign trusses, traffic signals, and highway lighting on newly constructed or reconstructed routes.
- Installations or extensions of curb, gutter or storm sewer for a continuous length of 500 feet.
- Reconstruction of an intersection and its approaches to a substantially higher type, involving a change in its character and layout. This includes changes from a plain to major channelized intersection or from an at-grade intersection to a grade separation and ramps.

Bridge and Culvert

- Building a new bridge or culvert on a road or street.
- Replacement of an existing bridge, or culvert with a span greater than 20 feet, with a new bridge or culvert that meets current design criteria.
- Building new flood control, flood prevention, and earthwork protective structures.

Work Classed as an Improvement:

Road and Street

- See definitions for Rehabilitation, Restoration or Resurfacing in [I.M. 3.220](#), 3R Guidelines.
- Addition of auxiliary lanes, such as speed-change, storage, or climbing lanes.
- Installation or replacement of sign trusses with one of current design involving oversize, illumination, or overhead installation.
- Expansion of an existing lighting system.
- Channelization of an intersection without substantial change in the scope of the original layout.
- Substantial addition to landscape treatment, such as topsoil, sod, shrubs, trees, etc.

- Upgrading traffic signals to current design.
- Installation of protective devices at railroad grade crossing.
- Extension or new installation of guardrail amounting to 500 feet or more.

Bridge and Culvert

- The building or reconstruction of a bridge by strengthening, widening, and replacing piers or abutments. Involves strengthening to a higher design criteria than the original structure.
- Replacing a culvert with a structure of greater capacity and having a span or diameter greater than four feet, but less than 20 feet.

Work Classed as Repair or Maintenance:

Road and Street

- Reconditioning an existing surface by scarifying, milling, mixing or reshaping, with the possible addition of material to restore material losses.
- On pavement surfaces, patching, surface treating, seal coating, joint filling, and mudjacking. Can include replacement of unsuitable base materials in patching operations.
- Resurfacing an existing granular road or street with gravel or stone.
- Resurfacing pavement with a single lift of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) less than two inches in thickness.
- Resurfacing pavement with HMA having a thickness of two inches or greater for less than 500 continuous feet.
- Replacement or widening of traveled way and/or shoulders for less than 500 continuous feet.
- Replacement of curb, storm sewer, and/or sidewalk less than 500 continuous feet.
- Applying dust control or palliatives.
- Reshaping ditches, drainage channels, and side slopes to their original shape.
- Restoration of erosion control, including replacing topsoil, sod, reseeding, removing or repairing slides, and replacement of shrubs or trees.
- Installation of road and street traffic and directional signs.
- Replacement or repair of individual traffic signals and highway lighting.
- Replacement or repair of guardrail for less than 500 continuous feet.
- Installation of accesses or entrances.
- Replacement of retaining walls or noise barriers in kind.
- Adding material (granular, asphalt) to shoulders for edge rut repair or in areas to prevent future edge rutting.

Bridge and Culvert

- Cleaning, painting, and repairing structure.
- Making streambed corrections including minor channel changes, rip rap, or the use of gabions.
- Replacements with essentially the same original design. Can include replacing a wood deck, stringers, piles, or beams with similar material involving essentially the same width and strength as the original structure.
- Replacing a culvert with a culvert of essentially equal size (width or diameter) or installing a culvert with a span or diameter of four feet or less.