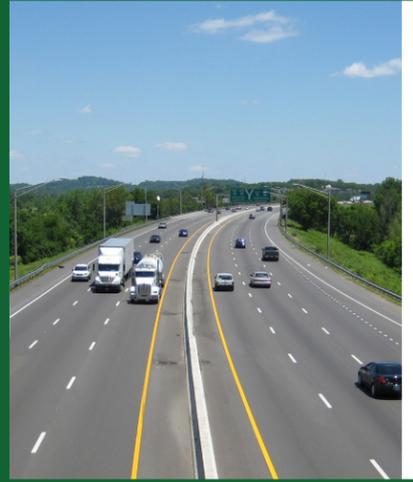




TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES



TENNESSEE
Roadscapes[™]
cultivating the road ahead

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Landscape Design Guidelines



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INTRODUCTION

Roadways affect our daily lives in ways that most people may not consider. They take us to work, take us home, bring industry and allow us to explore new places. They are a catalyst for memories of Sunday drives and road trips and can create stress in the event of rush-hour traffic. The roadside environment has the ability to mitigate stressful situations and create a lasting memory.

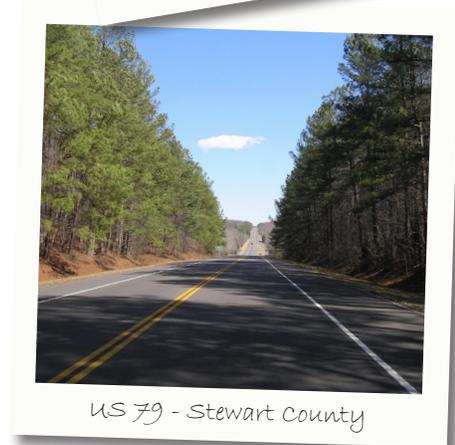
Many community leaders and residents understand that aesthetic improvements to their roadsides, whether a landscaped interchange or downtown streetscape, will instill community pride, benefit the environment and fuel the local economy by enticing people to stop in a community for a meal, a night or a lifetime. The visual qualities of a place influence the first impressions of visitors and passersby and provide daily enjoyment to residents and commuters alike.

When the roadways that run through a community create a negative impression or become a maintenance problem, improving the situation may seem overwhelming. Oftentimes, roadway design criteria and policies intended to make roadways safe and efficient are misinterpreted, which can contribute to an unattractive roadside environment or frustration to those who try to implement enhancements. These landscape design guidelines are intended to aid in improving the roadside environment and raise the level of awareness of the surrounding landscape's role in Tennessee's roadway system.

Background

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) saw a need to develop a set of landscape design recommendations for the roadside environment that responds to safety requirements, design criteria and maintenance needs.

In August 2005, 320 online surveys were sent to community leaders, including convention and visitor's bureaus, chambers of commerce, and parks and recreation departments across Tennessee. The survey asked questions about a statewide TDOT-sponsored comprehensive landscape program. Survey respondents believed the primary benefits of such a program would be a boost in community pride and an increase in economic development. Other benefits were improved quality of life and increased tourism. Subsequent public meetings held across the state echoed these sentiments.



QUICK FACTS

TDOT oversees a multi-modal transportation system consisting of highways and bridges, aeronautics, waterways, railroads, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transportation management. This manual focuses on the state's roadway system that is made up of:

- 1,073 miles of interstate
- 13,077 miles of state roads
- 8,112 state-owned bridges
- 11,407 locally-owned bridges
- 19 interstate rest areas
- 13 interstate welcome centers
- 9 truck weigh stations



Wildflowers at I-55 Welcome Center



State Route 91 - Carter Co.



I-40 - Greene Co.



Stone Wall on US 70S - Belle Meade

Purpose

This manual will provide a broad audience with recommendations to plan, design, install and manage the roadside environment for both new road projects and existing roadways. This audience includes TDOT professionals, maintenance workers, community officials, landowners, designers and anyone who wants to be involved in enhancing Tennessee's roadways. These guidelines should also be used by groups that are preparing Transportation Enhancement and Roadscapes grants.

This manual provides a new process for designing and maintaining roadway environments with respect to roadway character, the surrounding landscape, cost variables, maintenance resources, safety and time. When these factors are considered in design and maintenance plans, residents, tourists, and state and local officials all benefit.