
Chapter 18

Roadway Cross Sections

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Chapter 18

Roadway Cross Sections

18.1 General

Cross sections depict the existing ground conditions, including all manmade features, as sections perpendicular to the respective stations along a survey baseline or construction centerline. The proposed cross-sectional outline of the new facility with all its functional elements is also shown on cross sections. Standard cross section sheets shall be used for showing roadway cross sections. The preformatted sheet cell is located in the FDOT Engineering/CADD Systems Software. This sheet features a standard grid of five lines per inch, both in the vertical and horizontal. The vertical scale can be altered to ten lines per inch by utilizing a toggle feature in the CADD software.

The recommended vertical scale is 1" = 10'. The horizontal scale shall be such that the entire roadway R/W is shown on the sheet (generally 1" = 10' or 1" = 20'), but shall not be smaller than 1" = 40' horizontal. If the entire R/W cannot be shown on one sheet, more sheets may be utilized and appropriate match lines shall be shown with referenced sheet numbers. The scale shall be shown at the bottom right corner of the sheet above the title box.

18.2 Required Information

Existing ground lines shall be shown and the existing elevation at the centerline shall be noted just below the ground line at the centerline. The station number of the section shall be indicated opposite the ground line on the right side of the sheet and location baseline of survey indicated along the top and bottom of the sheet. Lines parallel to the baseline of survey should show station equivalencies to the baseline of survey.

The surface, as well as the below ground portions of existing features such as pavements, curbs and sidewalks, shall be shown.

Existing parallel underground utilities which lie within the horizontal limits of the project shall be shown along with verification notation for those locations which have been verified. Utilities that have been verified should be labeled as shown in **Section 14.3** of this volume. Small distribution or service lines need not be drafted.

Soil data and water table shall be shown on cross sections as described in **Section 17.2.1** of this volume. If it is determined that an organic or plastic material must be removed below the finished grading template, the lower limits of removal of organic or plastic material will be shown to determine the area and volume of subsoil excavation.

The proposed roadway template shall be shown. The proposed profile grade elevation shall be placed vertically or at an angle to the horizontal, just above the profile grade line. Special ditch elevations shall also be shown.

Station equations shall be shown, even though a cross section may not be plotted at that point. For ramp cross sections equivalent mainline stations shall also be shown.

The right of way limits shall be symbolically shown for each cross section.

The begin and end stations for project, construction, exceptions, bridge/bridge culvert and the toe of slope under the bridge shall be shown. The beginning and ending earthwork stations shall be shown.

On projects with grade separations, intersections, interchanges, etc., the earthwork shall be totaled on the last cross section sheet for each of the above and noted as to the station in which the earthwork is included on the project cross sections. Earthwork quantities shall be indicated in the appropriate columns on the right side of the sheet. Earthwork summaries shall be shown on the last cross section sheet of each roadway, ramp, etc. The grand total shall be tabulated in the Summary of Earthwork and shown on the Summary of Quantities Sheet.

The order of assembling the cross sections in the plans set shall be:

1. Mainline
2. Side streets
3. Ramps

18.3 Sheet Set Up

Cross sections shall be shown on a standard preformatted cross section sheet (available in the FDOT Engineering/CADD Systems Software) with stations increasing from the bottom to the top of the sheet. Usually, only one column of sections shall be placed on a sheet.

The interval selected for showing sections on the cross section sheet will vary according to project specific factors. For new construction and reconstruction, the normal interval for cross sections is 100 feet for rural projects and 50 feet for urban projects. These intervals may also be appropriate on RRR projects, depending on the variability of earthwork along the project. Other factors that may influence the frequency of cross sections include the presence of intersections, extent of driveway and turnout construction or reconstruction, ADA related work, drainage improvements, etc.

Sections shall be centered on the sheet with the survey baseline or the construction centerline placed vertically in the center. In cases where additional lanes are to be constructed adjacent to existing lanes, centering the sections will depend upon the location of the survey line and the side on which the new construction is to be placed. Sections shall be oriented such that the complete ultimate section will be approximately centered on the sheet. When the centerlines of construction and survey are not parallel, the distance between the two at each cross section shall be shown.

As many sections as possible shall be placed on a sheet with sections being spaced to avoid overlapping. The soil profile should be checked for possible unsuitable material below existing ground which may cause overlapping of sections.

When right of way is narrow enough and a horizontal scale of 1" = 20' is used, two columns of cross sections may be placed on a sheet. Cross section stationing shall progress from the bottom to the top of the sheet and multiple columns shall be placed from the left to the right. The sheet shall be set up to provide earthwork columns for each column of sections.

For additional information on cross sections see ***Volume 1, Chapter 3.***

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