Chapter 12

Back-of-Sidewalk Profiles

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12.1 General

Back-of-sidewalk profiles are used to establish the profile grade and therefore play an important role in plan preparation, especially if the project site is located in a built-up urban area. Profiles help ensure the constructability of the project within the right of way without excessive disturbance or rework of adjoining properties. Back-of-sidewalk profiles are also used for checking of stormwater trapped behind the sidewalks and as a major input for establishing centerline grade profiles.

Grades shown on this sheet are at the back of the proposed sidewalk, and grades shown on roadway plan-profile sheets are at the profile grade line (PGL) denoted on the typical section.

The inclusion of the back-of-sidewalk profiles in the plans set is optional - at the discretion of the district. Work sheets may be required with phase reviews.

12.2 Sheet Setup

Prepare back-of-sidewalk profiles using standard cross section format. For simple projects which do not involve many cross streets or driveways, the sheet may be divided horizontally to maximize usage. Stationing must progress from left to right and multiple profile views must be stacked from top to bottom. Match lines must be stationed. Care should be taken to preserve clarity and legibility.

12.3 Required Information

Profiles for use in establishing back-of-sidewalk grades consist of existing profiles along the back edge of each proposed sidewalk. Show the existing profiles to distinguish between the profiles for the right and left sidewalk, and in accordance with the FDOT CADD Manual.
The standard scales are 1" = 100' horizontally and 1" = 5' vertically. This combination works well for projects having few locations where back-of-sidewalk grades would be critical. It may be advantageous to use a vertical scale of 1" = 2' and a horizontal scale of 1" = 50' for projects located in business and commercial areas, or where greater clarity is required. Show elevation datum on both sides of the sheet, with station numbers below the profile.

Limits of existing pavement, such as parking areas and drives, which should be matched as closely as possible, must be identified on all sidewalk profiles. Indicate the centerline for each intersecting street and driveway with a vertical line at the proper station and the street name and station noted. Intersecting streets and driveways on the right must be shown below the profile, and those on the left above the profile.

At each station, as well as locations of significant drainage, draw arrows to indicate the slope of ground at the outer edges of the sidewalk.

Place drainage arrows below the profile line for the right profile and above the profile line for the left profile. Arrows pointing outwards from the profile indicate drainage away from the project, while arrows pointing inwards indicate drainage to the project.

Indicate floor elevations for buildings with a horizontal line drawn at the floor elevation between the building limits. Show the numeric elevation, as well as the offset (distance and side) from centerline of project to the face of the building. Entrances to buildings, elevations of top of existing major utilities (as defined in Chapter 5 of Volume 1), and water table elevation may be shown when appropriate.

Once the proposed back-of-sidewalk profile has been developed, show percents of grade, PI stations, and elevations. Vertical curves, if any, must be dimensioned. Elevations along vertical curves are not required. Flag and label stations for begin and end project, exceptions, back-of-sidewalk special profiles, and mainline station equations within the limits of the sidewalk profile.

Note the difference in elevation between the profile grade and back-of-sidewalk profile grade on the sheet. Superelevation notes, if applicable, must also be included on the sheet.