



Municipality of Anchorage
Project Management and Engineering



Design Criteria Manual Update

Soliciting Public Comment

Chapter 3 – Landscape &

Chapter 7 – Public Transportation

What is the Municipality of Anchorage Design Criteria Manual (DCM)?

The Design Criteria Manual (DCM) establishes the minimum standards for the development of roads, trails, transit, and storm drain infrastructure in Anchorage. The need for local criteria is driven by the unique climate, geology, and topography of Anchorage, which is not explicitly accounted for in national or international design guidance, and the dense urban development that exists in Anchorage which is not accounted for in State criteria. The design standards outlined in the DCM generally follow standards established and used nationwide, with particular emphasis on northern climate design techniques.

Where can the DCM be found?

The DCM may be downloaded from the following link:

https://www.muni.org/Departments/project_management/Pages/DesignCriteriaManual.aspx

What is the current plan for updating the DCM?

The Project Management & Engineering Department (PM&E) is updating the DCM on a by-chapter basis as funding, staffing, and workload allows. The updates for several chapters have been started and a tentative schedule has been developed for updating several additional chapters. The schedule is subject to change based on available funding, staffing, and workloads and updates will be posted on the DCM webpage linked above.

DCM Chapter	Last Updated	Update Initiated or in Progress	Initial Solicitation of Public Comment*	Estimated Public Comment Draft *	Estimated Submission for Approval*
1 - Streets	2007	No	Q3, 2025	Q2, 2026	Q4, 2026
2 – Stormwater	2017	No	TBD	TBD	TBD
3 – Landscaping	2007	Yes	Q1, 2025	Q2, 2025	Q4, 2025
4 – Trails	2007	No	Q3, 2025	Q2, 2026	Q4, 2026
5 – Lighting	2007	No	TBD	TBD	TBD
6 – Traffic Control	2007	No	TBD	TBD	TBD
7 – Public Transportation	2007	Yes	Q1, 2025	Q4, 2025	Q1, 2026
8 – Plans & Specs	2007	Yes	Q1, 2024	Q2, 2025	Q4, 2025

*Schedule subject to change.

What is PM&E currently soliciting feedback on?

The Project Management & Engineering Department (PM&E) is preparing to update Design Criteria Manual (DCM) Chapters 3 – Landscape, and 7 – Public Transportation. Chapters 3 & 7 were last updated in 2007, and significant additional resources and regulations have been developed since the last update including the adoption of the *Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way* published by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Chapter 3 of the DCM provides guidance and criteria for designing and installing landscape on municipal roads and on other municipal lands with the objective of creating attractive and sustainable landscape design projects.

Chapter 7 of the DCM provides guidance and criteria for designing and installing public transportation infrastructure on municipal roads such as bus pull-outs, bus stop pads, and bus stop amenities such as shelters, benches, and lighting. Chapter 7 does not provide direction to the Public Transportation Department (PTD) for where or when bus stops and amenities should be provided, instead it provides design guidance and criteria for how to install bus stops and amenities once the PTD determines they are necessary.

How is feedback being solicited?

We are accepting feedback on Chapters 3 – Landscape, and 7 – Public Transportation as currently adopted now through 5 pm Friday, March 7. Feedback may be submitted to the following email address: DCMUpdate@anchorageak.gov. Additional feedback will be solicited when drafts of the chapters are available for review.

What is the plan for public involvement?

- Public notice of update issued on a by chapter basis
 - Initial public comment period (30 days) to determine public priorities to be addressed with update
- PM&E involvement in related planning activities
 - Complete Streets Plan (AMATS)
 - ROW Plans (Long Range Planning)
 - Recreational Trails Plan (AMATS)
- Public postings of chapter drafts with comment period (45 days)
 - Presentation to Federation of Community Councils
 - Presentation to Assembly Community & Economic Development Committee
 - Presentation to applicable engineering professional societies

How will changes to the DCM be approved?

- Public hearing with Planning & Zoning Commission, and
- Public approval process with Assembly