

110.01 General

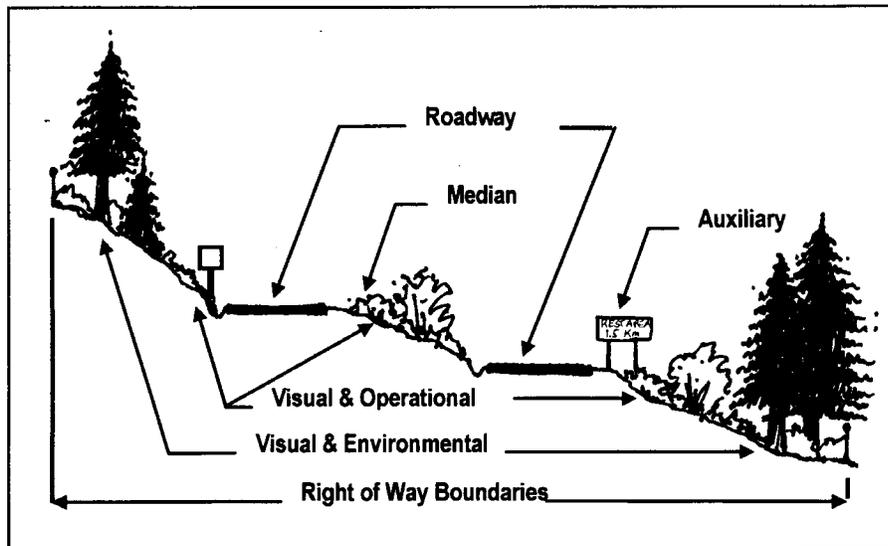
110.02 Roadside Management

110.01 General

The roadway is the portion of a highway, including shoulders, for vehicular use. A divided highway has two or more roadways.

Exhibit 110-1 shows the extent of a typical forested roadside and an example of the possible locations of roadside functional features.

Exhibit 110-1 Roadside functional area examples



The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is responsible for the stewardship of approximately 97,500 acres of roadsides along 7,061 miles (in 2001) of state roadway, including hundreds of auxiliary facilities.

Roadside management encompasses planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the roadside environment. The roadside is managed to fulfill four functional categories: operational, environmental, visual, and auxiliary functions. In reality, these functions are interrelated and inseparable, but the four functions help communicate the range of roadside management issues.

The roadside provides the essential area for these functions and contributes to WSDOT's delivery of transportation services. [Exhibit 110-2](#) shows the functions and some examples of those functions.

These examples and their applications are discussed in greater detail in the next several chapters.

Exhibit 110-2 Roadside functions

Function	Examples
operational functions	Those functions that provide safe and multiuse roadsides. Operational functions include access control, and providing recovery areas and sight distances with accommodations for signs and utilities, and snow storage. The <i>Design Manual</i> remains the primary guidance for operational design guidance.
environmental functions	Those functions that protect and enhance our natural and built surroundings. Environmental functions include water quality preservation, protection and improvement, stormwater detention and retention, wetland and sensitive area protection, noxious weed control, noise control, habitat protection, habitat connectivity, air quality improvement, and erosion control.
visual functions	<p>Those functions that are designed and experienced primarily from a visual perspective. Visual functions promote a positive quality of life and are integral to operational, environmental, and auxiliary functions. They include positive guidance and navigation, distraction screening, corridor continuity, roadway and adjacent property buffering, and scenic view preservation.</p> <p>There are two primary roadside views: those from the roadway and those toward the roadway. In addition, many environmental functions, such as noxious weed control, wetland and sensitive area preservation, and habitat preservation are readily perceived and evaluated through sight.</p>
auxiliary functions	Those functions that provide additional operational, environmental, and visual functions for a complete transportation system. Examples of auxiliary facilities are community enhancement areas, safety rest areas, roadside parks, viewpoints, agricultural uses, heritage markers, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, park and ride lots, and quarries and pits.

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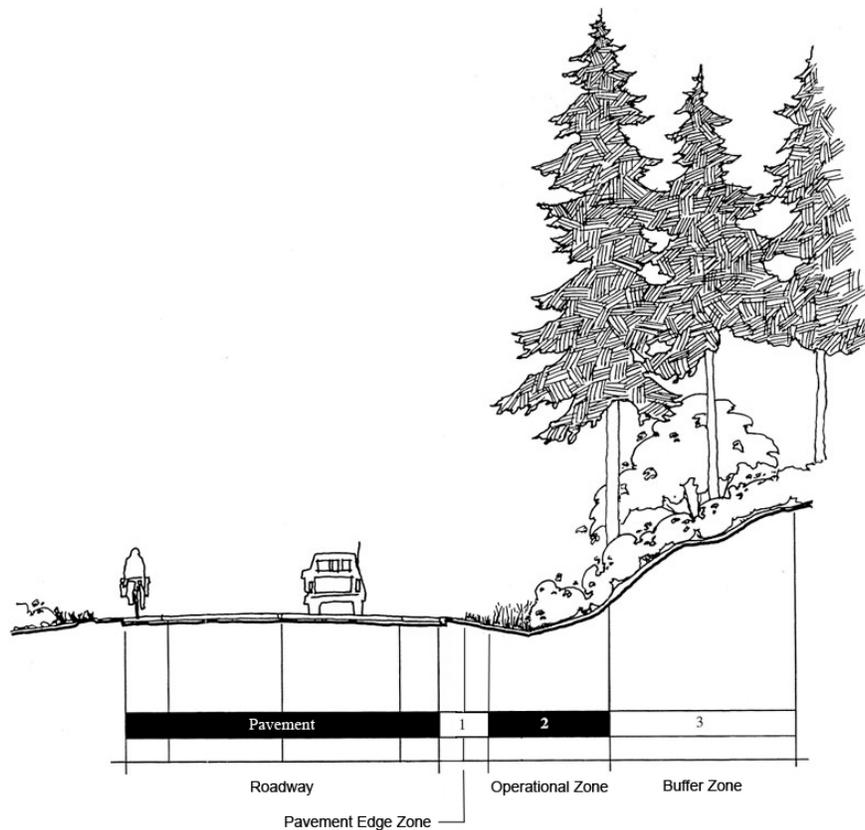
The roadside is managed to fulfill the operational, environmental, visual, and auxiliary functions. Decisions concerning roadside management must be balanced to coordinate and integrate these functions without compromising safety.

Roadside functions vary at different locations according to specific highway and site conditions. Although every area of roadside simultaneously provides many functions, some roadside sections are used primarily to serve very specific functions that are dictated by highway traffic and safety needs, the physical environment, legislated requirements, commitments, and WSDOT policies and programs.

Roadsides are managed in three zones. Zone 1, when present, is a vegetation-free zone immediately adjacent to the roadway. Zone 2 typically contains the clear zone (although in some locations, the Design Clear Zone may extend beyond the right of way line).

Zone 3 extends from Zone 2 to the right of way line, as seen in Exhibit 110-3. Please see the [Maintenance Manual](#) or the [Roadside Policy Manual](#) for more information.

Exhibit 110-3 Roadside management zones



Pavement Edge Zone
Low Growing or Routinely Mowed Vegetation and/or Vegetation-Free Strip
 Maintained using mechanical and/or chemical methods for sight distance, stormwater drainage and filtration, noxious weed control, pavement preservation and roadside hardware maintenance.

Operational Zone
No Vegetation with Stem Diameter Greater than 4"
 Maintained using IVM techniques for sign visibility, sight distance, errant vehicle recovery and weed control.

Buffer Zone
Native or Naturally Occurring Vegetation
 Where adequate right of way exists, maintained using IVM techniques to encourage desirable, self-sustaining plant communities.

