



## **Chapter 870**

# **Revision of Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements**

**Presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board  
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- **2011- General Assembly passed SB 1462/Chapter 870**
- **Directed CTB and VDOT to receive and consider public comments and make changes to three land development regulations:**
  - **Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA)**
  - **Access Management Regulations (related to entrances for family subdivisions)**
  - **Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements (SSAR)**

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- **Changes exempt from Administrative Process Act**
- **Commissioner approval required for**
  - **Traffic Impact Analysis Regulation changes**
  - **Access Management Regulation changes**
- **CTB approval required for Secondary Street Acceptance Requirement changes**
- **SSAR amendments must be approved by November 30**
- **All revisions become effective January 1, 2012**

## Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements

- **Initiated by § 33.1-70.3 to the Code of Virginia**
- **Required CTB to develop the SSAR to set standards to be met before streets will be accepted into the state secondary system for maintenance by VDOT**
  - **Ensure connectivity of road and pedestrian networks with existing and future transportation network**
  - **Minimize storm water runoff and impervious surface area**
  - **Address performance bonding needs of new secondary streets and cost recovery fees**
- **Implemented March 2009**

## 2009 SSAR Provisions

- **Connectivity**
  - **Connectivity Index – Standards to enhance street connectivity**
  - **Area Types – Division of state to provide appropriate Connectivity Index targets**
  - **Require at least two connections to each addition**
- **Add streets to system as network additions**
- **Pedestrian accommodation requirements**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Party inspection of street construction**

## Chapter 870 and Required Public Input

- **VDOT websites updated to solicit comments**
- **Request for public comments announced through Virginia Regulatory Town Hall**
- **VDOT contacted over 300 individuals who had previously commented on the regulations**
- **Two public comment periods:**
  - **April and May**
  - **August and September**
- **120 input letters and e-mails were reviewed and compiled**

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# Two Comment Periods

- **Connectivity index is confusing and does not increase transportation efficiency**
- **Identify a better way to enhance connectivity**
- **Pedestrian accommodation lot sizes are too large**
- **Eliminate Area Types**
- **Disagree with how Area Types are defined**
- **Retain current SSAR regulation**
- **Provide more meaningful penalty for not connecting to stub outs**

## Chapter 870 – Review

- **VDOT created two committees to review input and propose potential regulatory changes:**
  - **VDOT’s internal Ch. 870 Technical Committee**
  - **VDOT Land Development Policy Advisory Committee**
    - Reviewed public comments, propose changes and provide feedback with regards to proposed changes
    - Composed of representatives from local govts, engineering companies, land development groups, and growth management organizations

# SSAR

## VDOT Proposed Amendments

1. **Eliminate the Connectivity Index**
2. **Eliminate Area Types – On which Connectivity Index standards were based**
3. **Reduce median lots sizes for pedestrian accommodations and add traffic volume threshold**
4. **Require additional external connection(s) when network addition contains over 200 dwelling units or use generates over 2,000 VPD**
5. **Allow District Administrator's Designee to waive or modify connectivity requirements when specific situations exist**
6. **Reduce VDOT time for waivers and exceptions from 45 days to 30 days for connectivity exceptions and appeals for applicants**

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### **Next Steps**

- **Resolution for approving SSAR changes to be presented to Commonwealth Transportation Board at today's meeting**
- **Revisions become effective January 1, 2012**