



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Ohio Division

February 19, 2013

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-OH

Jerry Wray
Director
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Director Wray:

This letter is in response to your February 4, 2013 request for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Ohio Division to review and approve the HAM-IR 75-7.85, PID 77889 Urban Interstate Design Exception. Exceptions to the design standards were proposed for:

1. Stopping Sight Distance in three different sag vertical curve locations along the project.

The scope of the project involves complete pavement reconstruction and widening of 2.25 miles of IR 75 and 0.65 miles of SR 562 along with ramp, bridge, and railroad construction. The request for a design exception allows the stopping sight distance to be less than desired in three sag vertical curves due to existing structure and geometric constraints. The three locations of these sag vertical curves are on mainline IR 75, the ramps from SR 562 to IR 75 (Ramps M and K), and the interchange ramps from IR 75 to SR 562 (Ramps J and N). The optimal stopping sight distance would require a change in scope and major changes and additions to the project.

Crash data in the project location has shown a great deal of rear end crashes which could possibly be tied to stopping sight distance but are more likely factors of congestion. Adequate highway lighting in these areas are proposed to mitigate the deviation in stopping sight distance from what is desired. Based on the data provided in the Design Exception document dated February 4, 2013, FHWA approves the design exception to stopping sight distance in the HAM-IR 75-7.85 project, which is also a phase of the larger Mill Creek Expressway project.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Andy Thompson, Transportation Engineer, at (614) 280-6836, or andy.thompson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

For: Laura S. Leffler
Division Administrator

Ecc: Michael Bline, ODOT CO
Kathy King, ODOT CO
Joe Vogel, ODOT D8
Andy Blalock, FHWA
Andy Thompson, FHWA

File: HAM-00 Mill Creek Expressway/HAM-77889