1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this directive is to establish a policy for the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Highways, minimum standards for right-of-way widths for various classes of highways.

2. **POLICY.** It shall be the policy of the Office of Highways to be governed by the right-of-way widths indicated in the officially adopted Rural and Urban Design Standards. The widths may be modified by the Chief Engineer where justified by economic considerations.

   Where right-of-way is to be acquired for rural roads, the minimum distance from the limits of construction to the right-of-way line shall generally be an average of 10’ for ground level roadways and 25’ for elevated structures. These distances shall be measured from the toe of the side slope in fills and the top of the back slope in cuts for ground level roadways, and from the outermost point of elevated structures.

   Where right-of-way is to be acquired for urban projects, it shall not be less than that required to obtain the border area shown on the adopted Urban Standards.

   No reduction of these dimensions shall be made without the approval of the Chief Engineer. All recommendations for deviations from this policy will be made in writing to the Chief Engineer for his approval.

3. **OTHER ISSUANCES AFFECTED.** This EDSM replaces EDSM 11.1.1.1 dated January 1, 1977. All directives, memoranda or instructions issued heretofore in conflict with this directive are hereby rescinded.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This directive will be effective immediately upon receipt.

   DEMPSEY D. WHITE
   DOTD CHIEF ENGINEER