



Montana Department of Transportation  
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## Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E.  
Highways Engineer

Revised 2/2/23 *MC*

Date: April 30, 2008

Subject: Curb Dimensions

Recently a number of inconsistencies as to how we dimension curb sections have been identified. The Road Design Manual instructs designers to show dimensions to the top back of curb. The Traffic & Safety Bureau shows dimensions to the face of curb. The difference between the two methods has resulted in errors in the plans.

We have discussed the preferred location with Construction and they have determined that all dimensions should be shown to the top back of curb, including median curb. Both the median curb and cast-in-place curb are still measured for payment along the face of the curb.

The face of the curb is 0.5' from top back of curb for standard cast-in-place curb and gutter (refer to Detailed Drawing 609-05), and the face is 1.0' from top back of curb for precast median concrete curb (refer to Detailed Drawing 609-10). Note that sometimes cast-in-place curb and gutter is used in place of precast median curb for raised medians and traffic islands.

On projects with curb and gutter, the curb radii will need to be adjusted to account for the distance from the back of curb to the face of curb to ensure that adequate roadway widths are provided for intersecting roadways.

### **Example:**

The roadway intersecting the mainline has a width of 30 feet and the curb radii that are to be used are 25 feet. If the radii shown on the plans are 25 feet, field construction personnel will measure 25' from the origin of the radius to the back of curb. If the stations of the origins show that they are 80' apart (25'+30'+25'), the resultant roadway width would be 29' instead of 30'.

To remedy this, both corner radii shown on the plans should be modified by 0.5' away from the center of the intersection. This will provide the 25' radius to the back of the curb and the required 30-foot roadway width (measured from face of curb to face of curb). (See attached detail).

If you have questions concerning this, please contact [the Highways Engineer. me-at-444-6244](mailto:me-at-444-6244).

Pf.

Attachment

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