



DESIGN BULLETIN

Colorado Department of Transportation
Project Development Branch

CDOT Pipe Material Selection Policy
2010 Number 1, Page 1 of 2
Date: March 2, 2010

CDOT Pipe Material Selection Policy

Introduction

To comply with the provisions of the Final Rule published in 23 CFR 635.411 (b), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) must implement Section 5514 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) which was published in the Federal Register on November 15, 2006. CDOT will follow its standard practices for the hydraulic and structural design of pipes. CDOT has adopted a formal pipe material selection policy, attached below. The policy provides additional performance criteria that will be used to evaluate the acceptability of alternative pipe materials based on application, locale, and regional factors. This policy replaces all previous policies regarding the selection of pipe material for Storm Sewers, Cross Drains, Side Drains, and Under Drains. Under this policy, Project Managers will select the allowable pipe material options for each installation on a specific project. The Contractor will choose the final pipe material from the options provided in the Contract and as specified in applicable sections of the CDOT *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*. Any pipe that meets the corrosion and abrasion criteria in this policy and is installed in accordance with the Contract is expected to have a 50-year service life.



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CDOT designers shall use the policy to evaluate alternative pipe materials in their drainage design and select the pipe materials that may be used on the project. Do not select pipe materials to be used based on a personal preference or an agency preference. Alternative materials can be considered for installation based on the following:

- system type (Cross Drain, Side Drain, Under Drain, or Storm Sewer)
- environmental concerns (Abrasion and Corrosion)

This is consistent with the intent of SAFETEA-LU and FHWA policy

[Http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/cqit/culvert.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/cqit/culvert.cfm)

Begin selecting pipe materials using the CDOT Pipe Material Selection Policy immediately upon issuance of this design bulletin.

Changes to CDOT'S pipe specifications necessary to implement CDOT's *Pipe Material Selection Policy* are being issued in coordination with this design bulletin.



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The Pipe Material Selection Policy is currently posted on CDOT's Design and Construction Support web page under the heading Misc. Design Documents at:

<http://www.dot.state.co.us/DesignSupport/>

Contact your Area Engineer for Guidance:

Regions 1 and 6 – Scott Rees (303) 757-9233

Regions 2 and 4 – Neil Lacey (303) 757-9326

Regions 3 and 5 – Dennis Largent (303) 757-9595