

Memorandum

To: E-Distribution

From: Jeremy Terry, P.E. 
Road Design Engineer

Date: January 30, 2026

Subject: Road Design Manual 2026 Updates

The Road Design Manual (RDM) has been updated to resolve discrepancies that had arisen from various guidance emails and documents distributed since the [previous 2016 publication](#).

A pdf file summarizing all revisions is available at the following link:
[2026 Road Design Manual Updates](#)

One of the most significant updates involves rounding criteria for quantity summaries in Road Plans. The RDM now aligns its rounding requirements with Table 109-1 of the [Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction](#), which is included below for reference.

TABLE 109-1
ROUNDING CRITERIA

Pay Unit	Rounding
Foot	1
Station	0.01
Mile	0.01
Course Foot	10
Square Foot	1
Square Yard	0.1
Acre	0.01
Cubic Yard	0.01
Gallon	1
Pound	1
Ton	0.001
Hour	0.1
Lump Sum	0.001
Each	1
Unit	1

To maintain consistency across design and construction, all quantity totals must follow these updated rounding criteria, which match the standards used by Construction for payment of completed work. The EMG file template has already been updated to reflect these changes, and a help guide is available [here](#).

No technical revisions have been made to [Chapter 11 – Drainage and Irrigation Design](#) beyond those included in the [Hydraulics / Road Design 2023 Manual Updates](#). The only modification is the updated effective date on the chapter's cover page.

All updated files can be accessed on MDT's website under [Manuals & Guides](#).

I'd like to thank the following people for their involvement with these updates: Megan Cail – Highways Design Engineer, Jeania Cerek – Road Plans Checker, and Josh McNeil – CE Specialist.

Please contact the Road Design Engineer with questions or comments regarding the updated manual.

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