

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Guidelines for
Interpretation of Incidental Streets and Storm Sewer Systems Design

North Carolina General Statutes (G.S. 89C), Section 3(7), by exception, allows Professional Land Surveyors to design streets and storm sewer systems which are incidental to a subdivision they are surveying. The law restricts design and preparation of the plans for the above to subdivisions only.

Items which are “incidental” to a subdivision are initially determined by the designer in order to stay within that designer’s expertise, and the designer’s decision is then subject to this Board’s determination of what is “incidental” or what “appertains solely to the public works needs of the proposed subdivision.”

For clarification of incidental streets and drainage, items which are not permitted to be designed under the term “incidental streets and drainage” include but are not limited to the following:

1. Structural sub-base, base, paving surface of the streets, super elevation, traffic control, etc., necessary for street design; hydraulics for drainage systems, and hydrology for storm conditions; trench safety conditions; pipe bedding, structure backfill, and all structural load conditions from traffic on trenches, catch basins, manholes, grates and frames; except, that level of hydrology and hydraulics necessary in the performance of “incidental drainage” may be performed within a subdivision.
 - a) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit use of the standard sub-base, base and/or paving surface designs provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in their publication “Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Subdivision Roads Minimum Construction Standards,” where special structural design is not required.
 - b) Traffic control, as used in this Section, shall not prohibit the design of geometric features common to subdivision streets, nor the use of stop or yield signs at intersections.
2. Any street or drainage system which the surveyor is not totally competent in all aspects of the design of the facilities.
3. Any streets or storm sewers separate from a subdivision design.
4. Any dams or retaining walls.
5. Any major drainage ditch, storm culvert, branch, deep structure, catch basin, manhole, etc., requiring special or structural design.
6. Any design of major drainageways or storm sewers carrying storm sewer through the subdivision to drain a large drainage basin (major drainage canal, creek, river, large conduit system, etc.).
7. Any special design or selection of conduits for highway loads, other than residential streets, or deep sewers requiring special selection of conduit due to drainage loading, etc.
8. Any drainage system for the purpose or facilitation of sewage disposal.
9. Any storm sewer carrying more than a small reasonable amount of storm water from lands adjacent to the subdivision being designed.
10. Streets designated as thoroughfares or collector streets in adopted thoroughfare plan.
11. Any surcharged storm sewers or pumping stations.

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