

## Asset Management's Best Practices Manual

### **12.5.2 Non-Paved Shoulders (Stabilized, Soil, Grass, Etc.)**

Non-paved shoulders should be maintained in close proximity to the edge of pavement. When appreciable sections of the shoulder do not meet these criteria, maintenance should be scheduled.

Shoulders higher than the pavement edge should be lowered as soon as climatic conditions permit, with emphasis given to areas where water may pond on the pavement.

The paving of shoulders should be considered where there is frequent rutting or erosion along a shoulder and it is determined to be more cost beneficial to pave the shoulder than to continue to re-grade it. The cost benefit analysis, conducted for a five-year span, should consider but not be limited to the following factors:

- Frequency and cost of re-grading
- Traffic control costs
- User costs
- Inflation over five years
- Availability of staffing or outsourcing cost
- Safety hazard elimination

In addition to the above, paving of a minimum of 2-foot width of shoulder shall be considered along any roadway that is in the paving schedule that meets one of the following:

- The roadway is in an adopted transportation plan as a bicycle facility and no appropriate accommodation for bicyclists exists along the roadway
- The roadway has been identified in a traffic engineering study relating to bicycle and pedestrian crashes or crash data on bicycles and pedestrians identifies a safety hazard
- The locality has requested a paved shoulder for that roadway and VDOT agrees a provision of a paved shoulder is appropriate
- Paving the shoulder will provide a connection between existing facilities

Shoulder paving to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian activity shall have a goal of utilizing at least 2% of the district's pavement budget (pavement asset budget) and shall be accomplished only upon roadway sections that have adequate unpaved shoulder width to accommodate the paving and that shall not require the adjustment of utilities. If less than 2% of the pavement budget is spent, the reasons for the inability of the district to meet the goal must be documented and approved by the District Administrator.