

# Criteria of Roadside Planting

**RAMTHIANGHLIMITLAU**  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE,  
SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, NEW DELHI

---

Date of Submission: 09-12-2022

Date of Acceptance: 23-12-2022

---

## 1. DEFINITION/INTRODUCTION

The Roadside vegetation or bio engineering is a technique through which the life of road can be increased by controlling the moisture content of soil, by improving shear strength of soil, by improving infiltration capacity of soil & by controlling soil erosion. Through this technique we can also reduce the cost of construction, maintenance cost of roads. The road side vegetation technique or bio engineering technique requires assessment of existing road condition determination of type of roadside environment desired according to increased public demand and customer expectations. There are various factors on which vegetation techniques depend: Soil conditions; Traffic Composition; Location of road; Topography; Adjacent Land Use; The Priority of Road; Aesthetic appearance

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF ROADSIDE PLANTATION

The main objectives of planting along the Highways are as follows:-

- For aesthetic enhancement of the project corridors and places of importance by planting selective ornamental trees, landscaping and turfing with grasses and ornamental shrubs.
- To reduce the impacts of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants. To provide much needed shade on glaring hot roads during summer.
- To reduce the impact of ever increasing noise pollution caused due to increase in number of vehicles. To arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes.
- Prevention of glare from the headlight of incoming vehicles.
- Moderating the effect of wind and incoming radiation

Planting of trees along roads may be in the following manner and should be suitable for different locations:

1. Avenue Planting
2. Group Planting
3. Mixed Planting

**1. Avenue Planting** consists of planting areas in single or double rows along highways. In large cities and locations, where, land is available double avenues of trees may be provided. On divided carriageway having separate pedestrian footpath, the outer rows consisting of shady trees and inner row consisting of ornamental flowering trees may be adopted.



**Avenue**

2. **Group Planting** consists of planting a clump of 3 or 4 trees along the highway overcomes the monotony of avenue planting. To be more effective the spacing of the group should not be uniform. This system should be followed where availability of land is not an issue.



**Group**

3. **Mixed Planting** consists of selecting different varieties of trees, rather than one single variety. This system avoids monotony of single variety planting. During storm, when wind velocity is high, the hard varieties will survive and will protect the weaker varieties too.



**Mixed**

The most common use of trees is on roads and avenues. The road landscape needs to be safe for all road users and should be designed to improve road safety, mitigate accidents and/or hazards, and where possible, encourage safer road user behavior. If the wrong kind of trees are planted at wrong locations or places, the safety of traffic is endangered. Therefore, it is necessary to lay down certain criteria before adopting any plantation scheme for roads.

### GENERAL BENEFITS OF ROADSIDE PLANTING ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- Improved Road side conditions enhance the visitor visit.
- Reduce cost of construction activities due to less requirement of improved technology.
- Also improves life of pavement.
- It also reduces maintenance cost and needs.
- It improves water infiltration capacity of soil & reduces runoff.
- The roots, stems & associated woods that we obtained from cutting are used to build the structures.



Figure C8-1: Providing attractive and useable facilities improves tourism potential, particularly in regional areas

### SAFETY ASPECTS

- Vegetation proves an effective tool for slope protection in road projects.
- It minimizes effect of rain, snow and ice formation.
- It also minimizes hazardous conditions for maintenance staff.
- It reduces the slippery on the roads and provides safety for vehicles.

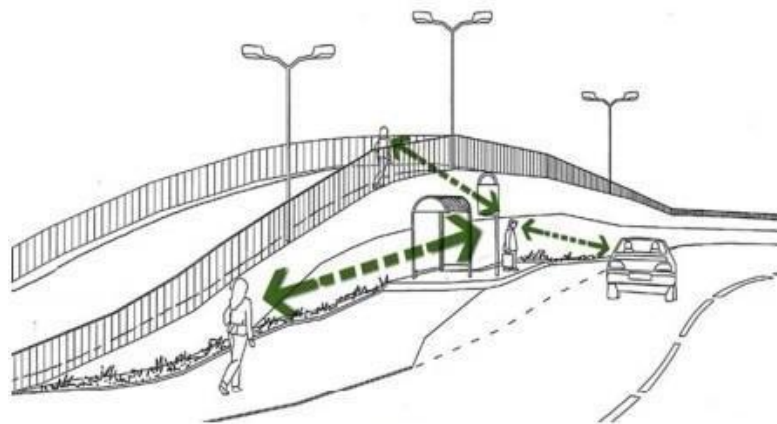


Figure C5-1: Maximise clear sightlines

### 3. GENERAL BENEFITS OF ROADSIDE PLANTING

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

- It improves air quality by absorbing carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.
- It also stabilizes the ground surface to prevent soil erosion as with time the strength of root system increases which increase the soil stability and the soil is less prone to soil erosion.
- Provides habitats for wildlife.
- Control weeds on roadside conditions.

Increased biodiversity (variation of species)

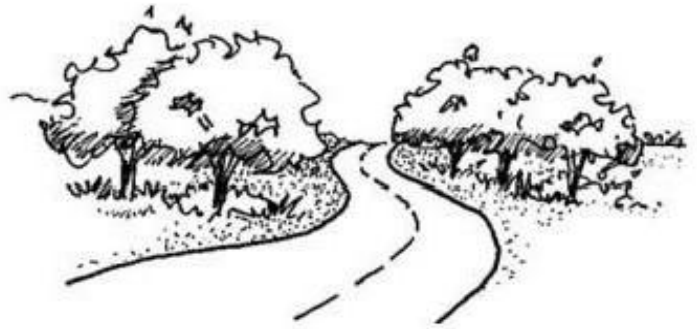


Figure C6-16: Roadway curvature responding to existing vegetation features

#### AESTHETIC ASPECT

- Roadside vegetation protects from unsightly views such as slums, Junk Yards, Storage depot etc.
- Trees provide shade, color if they are of flowering variety and also yields fruits



Figure C4-3: Natural values retained within the road landscape

#### 4. PLANTATION SPECIFICATIONS ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROAD

##### TYPES OF ROAD :

##### 1. National Highways:

The recommended minimum right of way (ROW) is 90 meters, wherever possible. However, within the city it shall not be less than 60 meters.

2. **Arterial Roads:** These include primary roads with access control and other primary roads.

i) **Primary Roads:** Vehicular routes carrying heavy volumes of traffic will generally have free / stable flow conditions with controlled access. The recommended ROW in existing urban area is 60-80m. and minimum 80m. in the proposed urban extension.

ii) **Other Primary roads:** The recommended ROW in existing urban area is 45-60 M. and minimum 60 m. in the proposed urban extension. Cycle tracks should also be constructed along all other primary roads wherever possible.

3. **Sub Arterial (Collector) Streets:** These include primary and secondary collector streets.

(i) **Primary Collector:** These roads will connect major arterial roads and inter residential district collectors. The recommended ROW in existing urban area is 30-40 M. and minimum 45 M. in the proposed urban extension. In addition to this, a separate cycle track should be provided wherever possible.

(ii) **Secondary Collector:** These roads are intended to collect traffic from local streets within one residential district. The recommended R/W in existing urban area is 18-24M. and minimum 30 M. in the proposed Urban extension.

**4. Local Streets:**

These are intended for neighborhood (or local) use on which through traffic is to be discouraged. The suggested ROW is 12 to 20 m. in the existing and proposed urban area. These roads should be made pedestrian and bicycle friendly by using modern traffic calming designs to keep the speeds within limits as per design.

**PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROAD**

**• ALONG THE HIGHWAYS**

The technical specification for planting along the Highway are as follows

**Ornamental plant except last row**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Distance from embankment       | 1.0 mt. away from the toe of the embankment             |
| spacing between plant to plant | 3 mts.  |
| Spacing between rows           | 3 mts.  |
| Size of the pits [Normal soil] | 60x60x60 cms  |
| For Alkaline soil [Usar]       | By Augar  |
| Water logged areas             | mounds with height varying depending on the water level |
| Species recommended            | as per annexure   |
| No. of plants per km           | 333   |
| Activity and time schedule     | As per table  |
| Height of the plant            | 1.5m to 2 m   |

**Shade plant (last row)**

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Distance from the preceding row | 3 mts                             |
| Spacing between plant to plant  | 12 mts.                           |
| Size of the pits [Normal soil]  | 60x60x60 cms                      |
| Alkaline soil [usar]            | By Augur                          |
| Water logged areas              | Mounds                            |
| Species recommended             | As per the table for shade plants |
| No. of plants per km            | 84                                |
| Height of the plants            | more than 2 mts.                  |

- Growth of mixed trees, the avenues present a patchy appearance. It is therefore best and most convenient to use the same species on either side of a road for at least 5 km or so and secure regularly grown avenues of the same form and type. Such avenues will mature at about the same time and can be replaced with minimum sacrifice.
- An average spacing of 12 mts. requiring 84 plants per km. and will provide ample growing space for most species. Too many trees apart from involving higher planting costs, very often unnecessarily reduce visibility for fast traffic. Excessive dense avenues serve no useful purpose and apart from affecting the tree growth adversely. It also reduces visibility and proves to be dangerous to fast moving traffic. Close spacing on curves and crossing can be dangerous so best plan is to miss a tree or two at such locations.

**Planting on Median**

- Low height plants or shrubs should be planted at a spacing of 3m.
- Only two rows of shrubs will be planted on median of width of 5m. The plants will be at a spacing of 1.5m from the inner edge of the median.
- The height of the plants will not be less than 1 ft. and need to be in polythene bags until the planting.
- All plants supplied must be planted within three days of removal from the nursery.
- Size of the pits for planting shrubs: -45x45x45cm.
- No. of plants per km - 666



- Use of compost and manure -2kg.perpit.

#### **ARTERIAL ROAD**

- Groundcovers and shrubs should be avoided or only used in carefully selected areas. Space for pedestrians and vehicles should be maximized
- Trees should be used to ameliorate the impacts of traffic and the expanse of the road and provide an attractive structure to the town or village
- It is preferable that trees are located to the edge of the road behind the kerb and outside the clear zone. Trees may be provided in the median but if this is their only location they would not offer any shade benefit for pedestrians
- Subject to context and local community requirements it is desirable that deciduous trees are utilized to allow sunlight to penetrate to street level in winter
- Tree species should be medium to large in size at maturity, have a good history of survival in urban areas and be able to be maintained with a high crown. They should be planted at a large size, a minimum of 45 liter where early effect is required.

#### **LOCAL STREETS**

- Trees should not obstruct the pedestrian flow or vehicular flow. Clear walkable footpath should be available depending on the road width.
- Thorny plants should not be planted.
- Street trees should typically be upright and branched above 2.4m to provide adequate walking clearance under branches.
- In case of narrow streets and in absence of Multi-utility zone, trees should be planted in parking zone / shoulder as it is advisable that trees utilize parking space instead of compromising walking space.
- It is mandatory to have tree pits which provide space for tree growth. Tree pits can be individual, elongated or connected. They may be surfaced with porous pavers, or grates that allow water to readily flow to the root zone.

#### **ROUNDABOUTS**

- In general, ground covers and grasses should be used in roundabouts. A wide concrete kerb should be provided to protect planting
- If used, trees must not be planted in a configuration that will impede road user sight lines or be in a location that might obstruct errant vehicles unable to stop at the roundabout. If used, trees should be frangible with a high crown. These should be planted at least an advanced size
- Mass planting of shrubs should be dense low groundcovers and native grasses, planted into weed mat overlaid with mulch. Species choice should consider whether the profile of the roundabout is domed, flat, or depressed
- Adequate drainage must be provided in such self-contained, small areas.

#### **INTERSECTION**

New trees should be planted no closer than 50m from major intersections.

#### **CONCEPT OF PLANTATION FOR DIFFERENT AREAS**

**Rural areas** Common plants generally recommended for national and state highways passing through rural areas, are Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*) alternating with shade trees like, Azadirachta indica, Tamarindus indica. Tall trees like Eucalyptus are not suitable as they interfere with electric and telephone lines and moreover are safety hazards on the road. Medium trees like, Acacia auriculiformis, Graviola robusta, are ideal for screening. In a tropical country like India, where the temperature during summer months may rise up to a maximum of 46°C or more, the 'shade' is of greatest value to the travelers. Thorny trees like Acacia Arabica and Ber (*Zizyphus jujuba*) are avoided, as these create a nuisance for the pneumatic tyre of motor vehicles.

**Urban Areas** Near market places and congested areas, the trees known for behaving as 'pollution sink' are proposed. Though, trees in general absorb the pollutants, filter the air from pollutants, and act as noise barrier, but some trees like Neem (*Azadirachta Indica*), Mango (*Mangifera Indica*), Packer (*Ficus Infectoria*), Shisham (*Dalbergia Sisso*), Imli (*Tamarindus Indica*) can do it in a better way. Near sensitive areas like schools and hospitals, tall trees with thick canopies can create a wind screen through which the air can be filtered and the noise levels be considerably reduced. Some such trees are Acacia auriculiformis and Graviola robusta. Tall shrubs like Casia biflora, hamelia patens etc are provided at the sensitive noise receptors for maximum possible screening.

### **EDGES ALONG CLEARZONE**

The clear zone along the Grand Trunk Road is of varied nature depending upon the different embankment heights. Some areas have steep gradients that need intensive stone pitching treatment. In order to increase the structural stability of this type of treatments, plant materials such as shrubs and ground covers, can be introduced in the interstices. They can be used with emphasis on their rooting characteristics, so that they help in binding the stone pitching treatments. In areas of high water table or water logging, special emphasis has been given on the selection of plant materials that can survive in moist conditions.

### **WATERLOGGED AREAS**

Waterlogged areas along the road are generally a result of inadequate drainage conditions, the road acting as a bund and contributing to water logging, high water table of the region or the low lying nature of the terrain itself. Waterlogged areas are generally associated with larger water bodies, serving as waterfowl habitat and often, scenic spots with religious and recreational setting. One of the common situations met for roadside plantation is the water logging since roadsides have been dug for excavating the earth for putting on road edge. This type of situation is common throughout the plains in the country.

Planting of such sites after proper drainage is now a common practice. *Eucalyptus*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Scyzygium cumini* are recommended species for waterlogged areas.

### **HILLROADS**

As hill ranges are very young due to which a minor disturbances can cause slips, subsidence and Land-slides. Landslides are basic problem on all hill roads. There are many factors which contribute the land slide whereas deforestation, grazing of animals is also a major contributing factor. As trees or vegetation on roadside not only increase shear strength along the failure plane but also improves the load carrying capacity of soil along the failure plane, provides lateral support by preventing soil erosion. As a preventive measure to avoid landslides afforestation & fencing should be done so that grazing of animals should be stopped.

### **WOODED AREAS**

As far as possible roads should be aligned along the outskirts of the forest and it should form a part of the road landscape; cutting of trees should be avoided. Even if it is necessary to cut certain trees, it should neither disturb appearance of the forest nor the animal life. The felling of trees should be done in stages i.e., first the thinning be done at the proposed road/ land boundary then the gaps from where thinning was done be planted with low and medium plantation and lastly when the new plantation comes up the central area be cleared from the road.

### **INDUSTRIAL AREAS**

Where the roads are passing through the industrial area, screen planting should be done on both sides of the road so that views are addressed and they act as a buffer for noise and air pollution. In conditions where chemical industries are existing or are proposed it is advisable to have a thick green buffer which is resistant to obnoxious fumes.

### **PROTECTED FOREST/RESERVED FOREST AREAS**

The design has been worked out to minimise the impacts on the forest stretches along the proposed alignment. For stretches of the corridor through the reserved / protected areas, the contractor shall ensure that the construction activities shall be limited to the proposed RoW, so as to avoid any impacts on the vegetation within the forest areas. Along the sections passing through protected / reserved forests, dense plantation has been proposed within the RoW

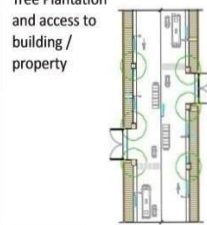
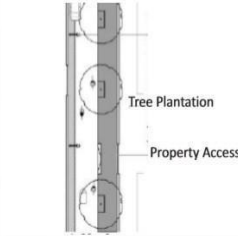
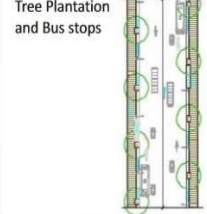
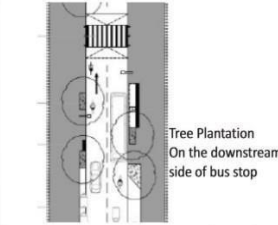
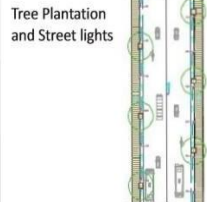
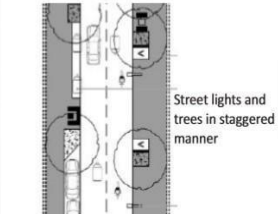
### **WOODED AREAS**

As far as possible roads should be aligned along the outskirts of the forest and it should form a part of the road landscape; cutting of trees should be avoided. Even if it is necessary to cut certain trees, it should neither disturb appearance of the forest nor the animal life. The felling of trees should be done in stages i.e., first the thinning be done at the proposed road/ land boundary then the gaps from where thinning was done be planted with low and medium plantation and lastly when the new plantation comes up the central area be cleared from the road.

**INDUSTRIAL AREAS**

Where the roads are passing through the industrial area, screen planting should be done on both sides of the road so that views are addressed and they act as a buffer for noise and air pollution. In conditions where chemical industries are existing or are proposed it is advisable to have a thick green buffer which is resistant to obnoxious fumes.

**WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY ACCESS, STREET LIGHTS AND BUS STOPS**

| WRONG  | RIGHT  | DESCRIPTION   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Tree Plantation and access to building / property</p>  | <p>Tree Plantation</p> <p>Property Access</p>                     | <p>Tree plantation should not obstruct pedestrians or vehicular access to any building or property at its entrance. Also footpath should be continuous.</p>                 |
| <p>Tree Plantation and Bus stops</p>                      | <p>Tree Plantation</p> <p>On the downstream side of bus stop</p>  | <p>New Trees should be planted near the bus stop or downstream side of the bus stop in such a way that they do not obstruct the visibility of bus driver or passengers.</p> |
| <p>Tree Plantation and Street lights</p>                | <p>Street lights and trees in staggered manner</p>               | <p>New Trees should be planted in an alternate &amp; staggered way with the street lights in such a way that street light does not get hidden due to tree canopy</p>        |

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**SIGHT DISTANCE AND VISIBILITY**

Landscape treatments such as vegetation, fencing or bollards shall not obstruct the motorist's sight lines and distance requirements to users of pedestrian and cyclist facilities, this includes:

- pedestrian refuges, medians and crossings, and junctions of footpaths, cycle paths, underpasses, and overpasses with the road.

Landscape treatments must not obstruct the pedestrian/ cyclist's line of sight and visibility providing and encouraging safety when using these facilities.

- Landscape works shall not block users/cyclists ability to see other users on the facility, allowing enough time for the user to stop around an obstruction to prevent a collision.
- Vegetation adjacent to facilities should be kept at a low height to allow visibility to and on facilities in order to:
  - provide a clear line of sight to signage which might warn users of change ahead,
  - ensure lighting is not obstructed or creating shadows with the potential for hidden areas for undesirable activities, and
  - provide a perceived sense of safety and deter undesirable activities through encouraged viewer exposure.

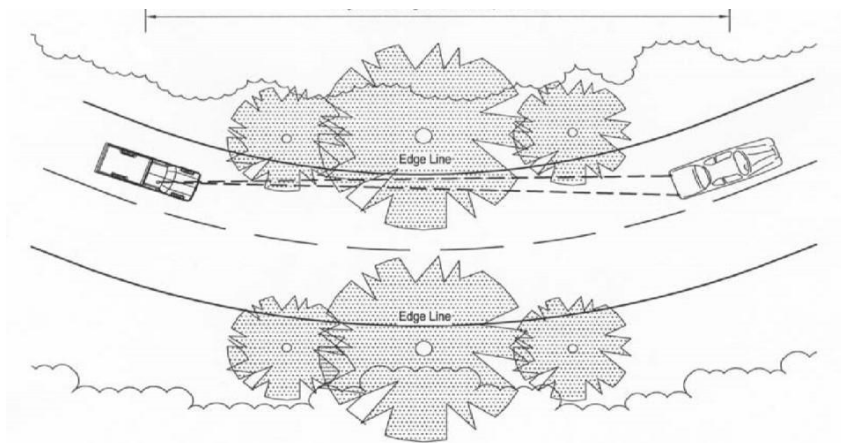
**SIGHT LINES AND ROAD ALIGNMENT**

- The road alignment can restrict sight visibility. "Restrictions" to visibility may occur on vertical curves and on horizontal curves to roadways. There are two types of restrictions on the road alignment that landscape works could potentially obstruct; sag vertical curves and horizontal curves



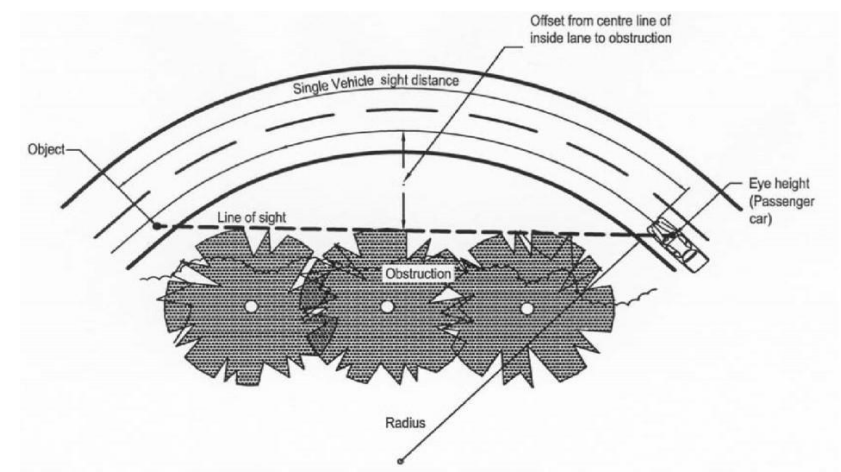
**Sag Vertical Curve Restrictions**

Visibility may be restricted on sag vertical curves due to an overhead obstruction. "Care should be taken in the design of landscaping in these circumstances to avoid the creation of a vegetation canopy that restricts sight distance in a similar way to overhead bridges". This situation is most likely to occur on narrower roadways (single or double carriageways) or where there is design intent to create an effect of tree canopies overhanging the road.



**Horizontal Curve Restrictions**

Visibility may be restricted on horizontal curves due to an obstruction on the innerside of the curve. Horizontal curve sightlines are most likely to affect the landscape treatment, as the clear line of sight required is directly across the embankment of the roadway; the area where landscape treatment is typically applied. In some instances, the cut batter in this location can be the obstruction and alternatives such as benching, or a larger curve radius, may have to be applied by the civil designer. The difference between sight distance requirements for interchanges will be created by the overpass/underpass grade separation of two or more roads. All vertical landscape elements must be considered for roads that make up the interchange. For example, tree canopies that may not have affected the sight visibility at road level may affect an overpass that is above this road.



**FUNCTIONAL USE OF PLANTING FOR SAFETY FACTORS**

Landscape planting can be used to actively enhance safety objectives. Plant species selection must be based upon that species ability to achieve a specific design function.

**Headlight Screen Planting**

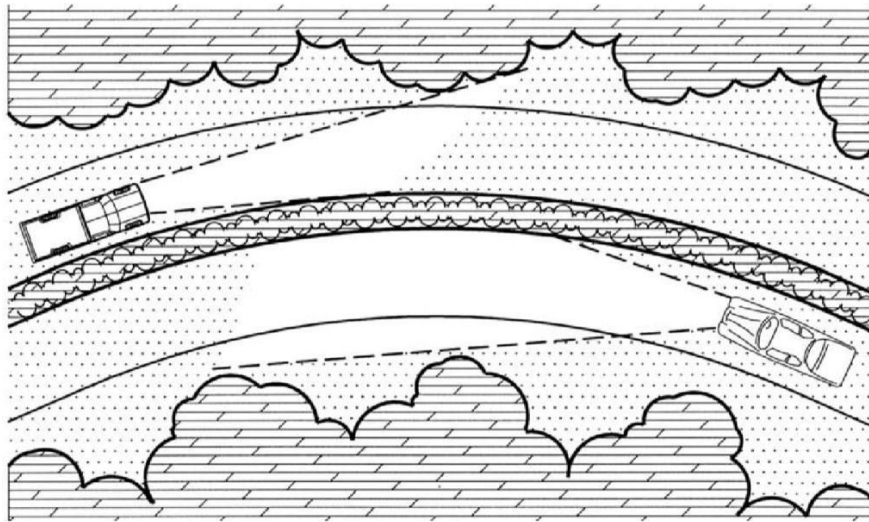
Planting can be an effective method to screen headlight glare from oncoming traffic, benefiting drivers and adjacent properties. The most common and effective application is to the medium strips of dual carriageways, rural roads, roads adjoining railways lines, service roads and on horizontal curves. Dense shrubs and groundcovers with foliage to ground level are effective in preventing headlight glare.

### Buffer Planting

Planting can be used as a safety buffer zone for “errant vehicles by cushioning the impact of the vehicle before it collides with more hazardous objects or other vehicles” (Grieves and Lloyd, 1984:98). Dense shrubs with trunks less than 70-100mm thick branches would best achieve this function.

### Visual Screening

Planting can be used to screen undesirable views both to and from the road, depending on the function required. It can prevent drivers from being distracted or be used to reduce driver monotony along stretches of road that do not call for changes of eye focus.



### Visual Guidance Planting

The road landscape can assist with the visual guidance of the driver, “when they are unfamiliar with the route or the visibility is affected (for example, through rain or heavy shadows)”. Planting can be used to exaggerate or provide these visual cues by:

- “providing a visual backdrop against which the roadway can more easily be seen.
- highlighting an obstruction ahead such as a traffic island, or diverging roadway.
- screening disruptive features and views”.
- consistent use of contrasting planting at critical features in the road, such as intersections or roundabouts, to alert the driver of a change of movement.
- contrasting vegetation types, forms, textures and/or colors to help increase driver recognition of road delineation, such as the central island of a roundabout having vegetation that contrasts with the surrounding features.
- using plants, particularly shrubs, on the outside of curves to indicate and provide guidance to the change in alignment of the roadway.
- “spacing of individual trees so that the successive interval between these vertical elements is indicative of the curved radius of the roadway”



No indication of direction or alignment beyond crest of road



Tree planting used to provide indication of alignment beyond crest

### Glare Screen Planting

Many roads experience strong glare due to the setting of the sun. This glare from low-angle sunlight can be reduced through carefully aligned planting. For north-south orientation of roads, the solution is to provide ridgeline screening on the western side of the road.

"When using planting to screen glare care should be taken not to create a strobing effect through transparent foliage, as this could be a bigger problem than the glare".

### NO PLANTATION ZONE

The plantation may not be carried out in the following areas:

- Within 1.5m from the toe of the carriageway.
- At median cut and grade separator, at least 5m blank space shall be left for clear view of the traffic.
- At curve, dense and tall height tree reduce visibility in plain terrain, a stopping sight distance of 170 m corresponding to the design speed of 100km per hour should be ensured on all curved sections, on the innermost lane of the curve.
- At median, medium and large size trees are more prone to cyclone damage resulting in accidents, disruption of traffic and clear view of the carriageway. Long rooted plants may also damage the carriageway.
- Screen plantation as a visual barrier in schools, hospitals, residential colonies, etc.

### DESIGN WITH RESPECT TO ROADSIDE PLANTING

#### DESIGN CRITERIA

Select and locate plants with the following criteria in mind to avoid future problems and to avoid increased or difficult maintenance.

- **Sight Distance** Design for and maintain sight distance for motorist, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. Sight distance is also a security issue for safety rest areas, park and ride lots, pedestrian facilities, and bicycle facilities (see the Design Manual).
- **Design Clear Zone** The Design Clear Zone is a function of posted speed, side slope, and traffic volume. Do not locate trees that can grow over four inches in trunk diameter in the Design Clear Zone (see the Design Manual). Shrubs are appropriate for this zone.
- **Traffic Barriers** Set shrubs and ground cover plants a minimum of 2 ft and trees a minimum of 6 ft from traffic barriers to reduce maintenance.
- **Vertical Clearance** Provide appropriate setbacks for trees that might overhang the roadway. When trees do overhang the roadway, provide a minimum vertical clearance of 16 ft. Minimum vertical clearance over trails and pedestrian facilities is 10 ft.
- **Medians and Gore Areas** Design medians and gore areas to be a minimum of 10 ft wide. Narrower areas tend to be a problem for maintenance personnel, are expensive to irrigate, and generally are unsatisfactory for

revegetation. Consider paving, stone, or other bare surface material in gore areas less than 10 ft wide.

- **Right of Way Line** Place trees and shrubs a minimum of 6 ft inside the right of way line.
- **Curb Lines of City Streets** Comply with local agency standards and WSDOT sight distance criteria for revegetation.
- **Structures** Locate trees as far back from structures as necessary to avoid operational conflicts and the need for excessive pruning.
- **Trails** Set back evergreen trees with branches less than 2 m (6 ft) from the ground a minimum of 6 m (20 ft) from trails. Select species native to the area wherever possible. Set back shrubs higher than 1.5 m (5 ft) a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft) from trails, for security purposes.

**PLANTATION PATTERN**

The concept of road landscape shall be evolved so as to maintain visual characteristics and uniformity in terms of landscape along the stretch. In the absence of uniform land availability for the plantations, different schemes may be worked out in tune with local variations in the design. To achieve this, the entire stretch of the project corridor shall be divided into homogeneous landscape sections based on similarity in terms of available width, soil conditions, climate (temperature and rainfall) and topography. A study on the local flora and vegetation cover native to these sections shall be carried out as part of the field surveys to enable a choice of the suitable species for particular section. Depending on the available ROW, plantation pattern shall be worked out as follows:

- the first row along the highway will be of small to medium sized ornamental trees
- subsequent rows depending on the availability of width will comprise of ornamental and/or shade bearing species, of more height than those in the first row.
- In rural sections the last row will always be of shade wearing tall trees
- planting of shrubs in the median
- planting of herbaceous species as ground cover in the median, special landscapes and embankment slopes
- turfing with grass in the median, special landscape and embankment slopes

Table 1, 2 & 3 list a few species, which can generally be planted throughout India

**The shrubs** to be planted in the median shall be of low or medium height for prevention of the headlight glare. One to two rows of flowering shrubs may be provided according to the varying width of the median in different sections. In sections where the median width is less than 1.5 m, only grasses and turf are advisable.

Some herbaceous species may be planted as a ground cover not only on the median but on special landscapes and embankment slopes also. The species proposed for the purpose of turfing/ground cover are: *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cyathocline perpura*, *Solanum nigrum*, *Alternanthera*, *Chlorophytum*, *Eupatorium*, *Wedelia*, *Duranta*, *Portulacca*, *Ipomea*, *Pelia cardii*, *Beleprone oblongata*, *Tradescantia*, *Asparagus*, etc. The shrub species proposed in the median are mainly *Bougainvillea* and *Thevetia nerifolia*. However, other suitable species may be planted in consultation with the local horticulture specialists.

**Table 1- Species Recommended for 1<sup>st</sup> Row of Avenue Plantations**

| S.NO. | SOIL                          | BOTANICAL NAME                 | LOCAL NAME  |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.    | <b>Loamy</b>                  | <i>Delonix regia</i>           | Gulmohar    |
| 2.    |                               | <i>Cassia fistula</i>          | Amaltas     |
| 3.    |                               | <i>Bauhinia</i> sps.           | Kachnar     |
| 4.    |                               | <i>Cassia nodosa</i>           | Cassia      |
| 5.    |                               | <i>Jacaranda mimosaefolia</i>  | Jacaranda   |
| 6.    |                               | <i>Peltophorum ferrugineum</i> | Peltophorum |
| 7.    | <b>Water logged condition</b> | <i>Terminalia arjuna</i>       | Arjun       |
| 8.    |                               | <i>Syzygium cumini</i>         | Jamun       |
| 9.    |                               | <i>Cordia alliodora</i>        | Lasoda      |
| 10.   | <b>Alkaline soils [Usar]</b>  | <i>Terminalia arjuna</i>       | Arjun       |
| 11.   |                               | <i>Pongamia pinnata</i>        | Kanji       |
| 12.   |                               | <i>Albizia lebbek</i>          | Kala Siris  |

**Table 2- Species Recommended for 2<sup>nd</sup> Row, except last Row of Avenue Plantations**

|    |              |                   |            |  |
|----|--------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| 1. | <b>Loamy</b> | Melia azadiracta  | Bakain     |  |
| 2. |              | Pongamia pinnata  | Kanji      |  |
| 3. |              | Gravillea robusta | Slver Oak  |  |
| 4. |              | Albizzia lebbek   | Kala siris |  |
| 5. |              | Dalbergia sissoo  | Shisham    |  |
| 6. |              | Terminalia arjuna | Arjuna     |  |

**Table 3- Shade trees recommended for last (or the only) Row in roadside avenue**

| SOIL                 | SPECIES    |                                       |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| LOAMY                | Local name | BOTANICAL NAME                        |
|                      | Peepal     | Ficus religiosa                       |
|                      | Paker      | Ficus infectoria                      |
|                      | Mahua      | Madhuca indica                        |
|                      | Mango      | Mangifera indica                      |
|                      | Neem       | Azadirachta indica                    |
|                      | Imli       | Tamarindus indica                     |
|                      | Jamun      | Syzynium cuminii                      |
|                      | Shisam     | Dalbergia sissoo                      |
| SANDY                | Shisam     | Dalbergia sissoo                      |
| ALKALINE<br>[USAR]   | Neem       | Azadirachta indica [ at ph up to 8.5] |
|                      | Kanji      | Pongamia pinnata [ upto 9.0 p h]      |
|                      | Arjun      | Terminelia arjuna                     |
| WATER LOGGED<br>AREA | Jamun      | Syzyniumcuminii                       |
|                      | Arjun      | Terminalia arjuna                     |

## 5. CONCLUSION

Although roadside vegetation has certain limitations like limited plantation season of trees but keeping in view all the above of roadside vegetation, considering its economic, environmental, safety aspect etc. it should be given due importance. Since, roadside vegetation has varied benefits on hilly roads, embankments, to improve soil strength, improving infiltration capacity of soil, reduction in soil erosion.

## CONCLUSION

The roadside trees are a cheaper and positive way to preserve and improve environment. With ever increasing use of roads for transportation in modern life, the roadside vegetation has become one of the major elements of the roadside environment which people experience on a frequent basis. A properly designed and established roadside planting makes the road safe, pleasant for the driver and passengers, protective for vehicles and most of all inexpensive for its maintenance.

Landscaping enhances both the visibility and the visual quality of the road dividers. Roadside vegetation should be designed or maintained to accomplish specific goals of sight-distance, clear view of obstructions, erosion control, and aesthetics, plants must not be planted where they may obstruct any signs, sightlines, or driver visibility, plant use in intersection areas must be limited to low-growing varieties, plants must not be placed near merging lanes, landscape improvements must avoid the creation of unsafe conditions for motorists and proper criteria and guidelines should be followed for roadside planting.

## REFERENCES/SOURCES

- [1]. Wikipedia
- [2]. Urban Green Guidelines, by Ministry of Urban Development
- [3]. Handbook of Landscape by CPWD
- [4]. Tree Plantation Strategy- Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project by National Highways Authority of India
- [5]. Green Highways by Ministry of Road Transport and Highway



- [6]. Importance of Roadside Vegetation by India Technical Research Organisation
- [7]. MPD by DDA
- [8]. Street Design Guidelines by DDA
- [9]. Road Landscape Manual by Department of Transport and Main Roads
- [10]. Management of roadside vegetation, road-island planting and slope cover by V. Kollarou\* and G. Kollaros
- [11]. Landscape design guideline
- [12]. Code of Practice (Part-1) by Ministry of Urban Development