

## **3.2M            Horizontal Alignment**

### **3.2.3M           Spiral Curves**

#### **3.2.3.1M        Introduction**

The TAC Subsection **3.2.3.1** is not applicable to the Department's highways as written.

Spiral curves are generally not used in the mainline alignment of the Department's highways. Given that the vast majority of the Department's highway design work is in the area of rehabilitating existing facilities, the cost associated with minor realignments required to retrofit spiral curves cannot normally be justified.

While the use of spirals in mainline alignment is not necessary, this does not preclude their use if the designer feels they can be justified from a safety or operational perspective. Spirals may be beneficial between broken back curves, compound radius curves, or when realigning sections of highway in stages and tying into existing portions in the interim.

Spirals should be used in the design of interchange ramps and in the design of right-turn-cutoffs as outlined in the Department's "Design Guide - Warrants and Standards for Intersection Treatments of Rural Two-Lane Highways".