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DESIGN DIRECTIVE

To: Distribution

From: Erik Stoothoff, P.E. *EJS*
Chief Engineer

Date: May 21, 2020

RE: Height of Concrete Pedestals and Foundations

This design directive identifies the MBTA's requirements for the design height of concrete pedestals and foundation walls above finish grade. Design consultants shall design to standards as prescribed by code. MBTA Standards shall apply only where code does not address a topic or the MBTA requires a standard above and beyond code. The more stringent shall always apply.

The top of concrete pedestals supporting sign posts, light poles, canopy columns, building columns, OCS poles, handrail/guardrail, and other exterior metal structures and fixtures exposed to weather shall extend a minimum of 18-inches above finish grade. Similarly, the top of concrete foundations supporting exterior building walls shall extend a minimum of 18-inches above finish grade. The exception is for exterior elevator shaft foundation walls where visibility takes precedence; in these locations the concrete pedestals shall extend a minimum of 12-inches and a maximum of 18-inches above finished grade.

In the event that conditions warrant deviation from this directive, the Engineer of Record shall submit a request for a waiver to the Chief Engineer. The request shall include the following:

1. A detailed narrative which identifies:
 - a. The location and application of use.
 - b. Why the 18-inch pedestal or foundation wall height is infeasible.
 - c. How the deviation from the requirements of this directive will achieve equal or better long-term performance when compared to structures which adhere to this directive.
 - d. How the MBTA will benefit from deviating from the requirements of this directive.
2. Engineering drawings including plans, elevations, and sections as necessary to detail the complete installation.