

Rural Narrow Lanes

Narrow lanes on major rural roads are a key indicator of sight visibility and design adequacy. The national design standard for lane width on major rural roads is generally 12 feet, and few if any major rural roads would be improved without widening lanes to the standard; the exceptions would be some urban or mountainous circumstances.

In 2007, about 10.27 percent of rural principal arterials—9,730 miles out of 94,763—had narrow lanes less than 12 feet wide (Table 16, Rural Narrow Lanes, Figure 9), better than the 10.60 percent reported in 2006. Seven states reported no narrow-lane mileage, while Pennsylvania (41.13 percent) reported the highest percentage of narrow lanes. The states with the highest percent of narrow lanes tend to be in more mountainous terrains, but are not exclusively so.

Table 16: Rural Narrow Lanes, 2007					
Rank (1-25)	State	Percent Narrow	Rank (26-50)	State	Percent Narrow
1	AZ	0.00	26	SC	6.64
1	DE	0.00	27	MD	6.98
1	ND	0.00	28	IA	7.07
1	NJ	0.00	29	AK	7.07
1	NV	0.00	30	FL	8.17
1	SD	0.00	31	MS	9.34
1	UT	0.00	32	LA	9.88
8	ID	0.52	33	TX	9.90
9	KS	0.55	34	NC	12.33
10	MT	1.03	35	IL	13.60
11	NE	1.08	36	OH	13.86
12	WY	1.21	37	CO	14.14
13	CT	1.22	38	MI	16.44
14	WI	1.51	39	KY	18.79
15	RI	2.08	40	MO	20.63
16	NH	2.22	41	VT	22.81
17	OK	2.76	42	TN	24.41
18	GA	3.40	43	ME	25.76
19	AL	3.76	44	NY	28.23
20	MA	4.79	45	VA	29.92
21	NM	4.94	46	HI	30.63
22	MN	5.28	47	AR	32.74
23	IN	6.01	48	WV	33.68
24	CA	6.15	49	WA	37.12
25	OR	6.36	50	PA	41.13
				US	10.27

