

Municipality of Anchorage Design Criteria Manual Update

Assembly Transportation Committee Meeting
July 16, 2025



Brandon Telford, P.E.

Engineering Manager

Project Management & Engineering
Department

Chapter 3 – Landscaping

Chapter 7 – Public Transportation

Chapter 8 – Plans & Specifications

How to Find the Design Criteria Manual (DCM)

- MUNI.ORG

- Muni.org>Departments>Project Management and Engineering>Online Publications/Forms>Design Criteria Manual

- Search Engine (Google & Bing Top Result)

- “Anchorage DCM”
- “Anchorage Design Criteria Manual”



PM&E DCM Website



The screenshot shows the official website of the Municipality of Anchorage. The header includes the city logo and navigation links for Residents, Business, Government, Public Safety, Transportation, Job Opportunities, and ePay. A breadcrumb trail indicates the path to the Design Criteria Manual: Muni.org > Departments > Project Management and Engineering > Design Criteria Manual. The main content area is titled 'Project Management and Engineering Design Criteria Manual, January 2007' and lists eight chapters: Streets, Management and Design Criteria, Construction Practices, Landscaping, Trails, Lighting, Traffic Control, Public Transportation, and Plans & Specifications. A sidebar on the right lists various sections like Engineering and Design, Geotechnical and Materials Testing, Land Records, Project Management, Right of Way Acquisition, Survey, and Watershed Management. The footer contains contact information for City Hall, links for employee search and ADA compliance, and resources for employees like the Open Data Portal and Record Request.

What is the DCM

- Establishes minimum standards specific to Anchorage's climate, geology, and topography.
- Founded on nationally recognized industry standards and regulation.
- Intended to be a comprehensive resource for designers.
- Fulfills regulatory obligations and conditions.
 - SOA DEC Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Program
 - US EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program

Streets

Storm Drain

Landscaping

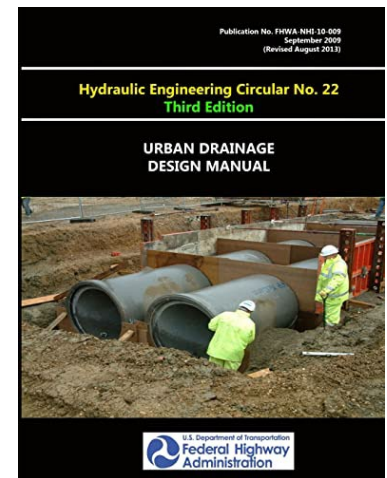
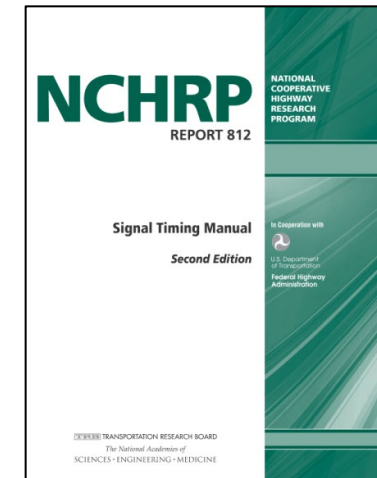
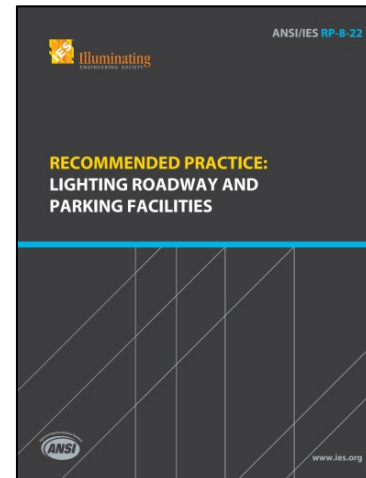
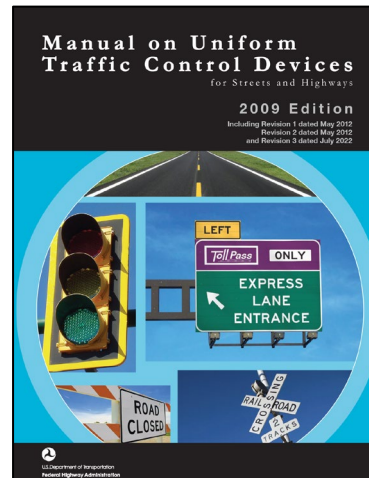
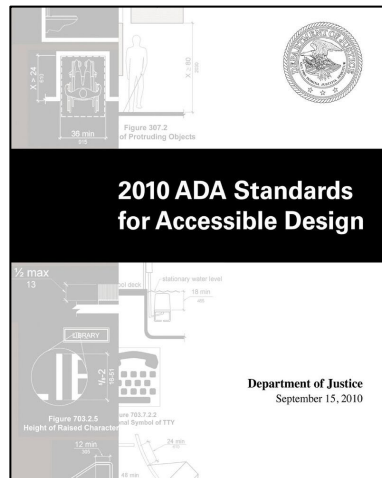
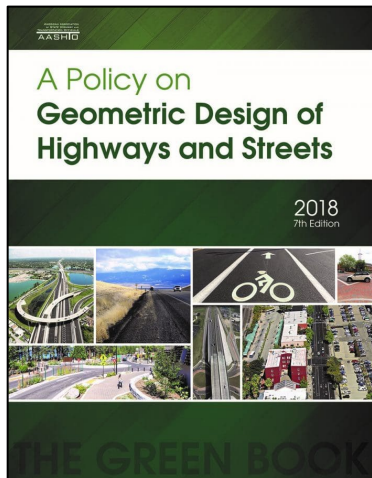
Trails

Lighting

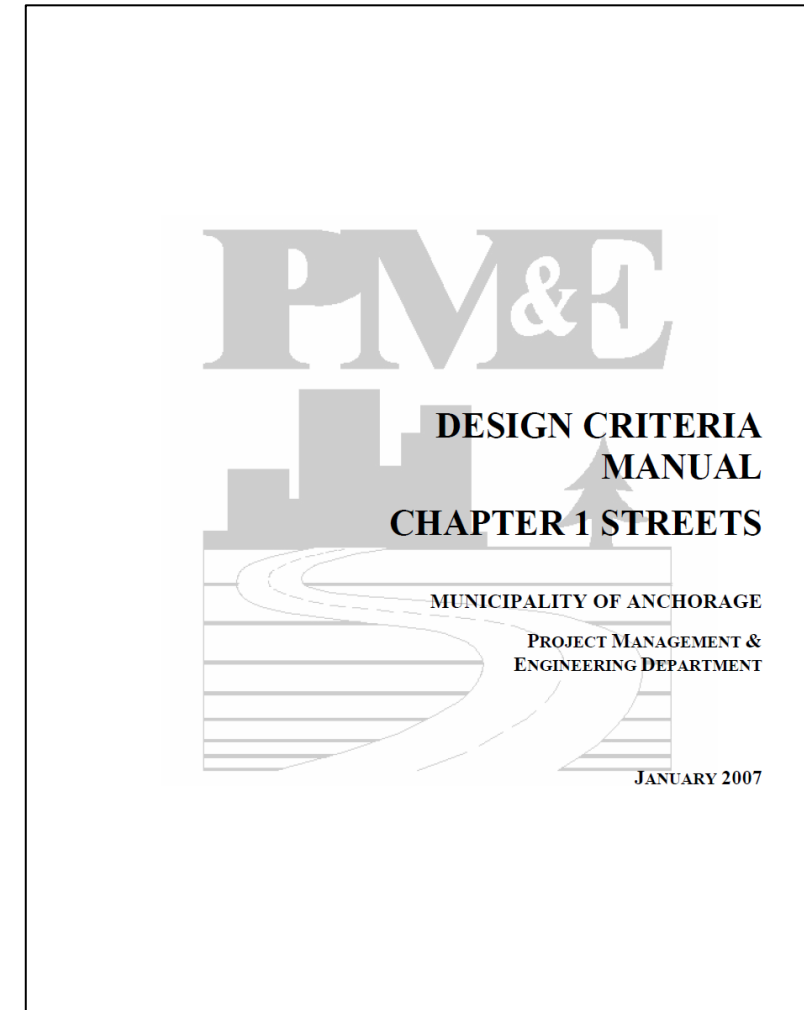
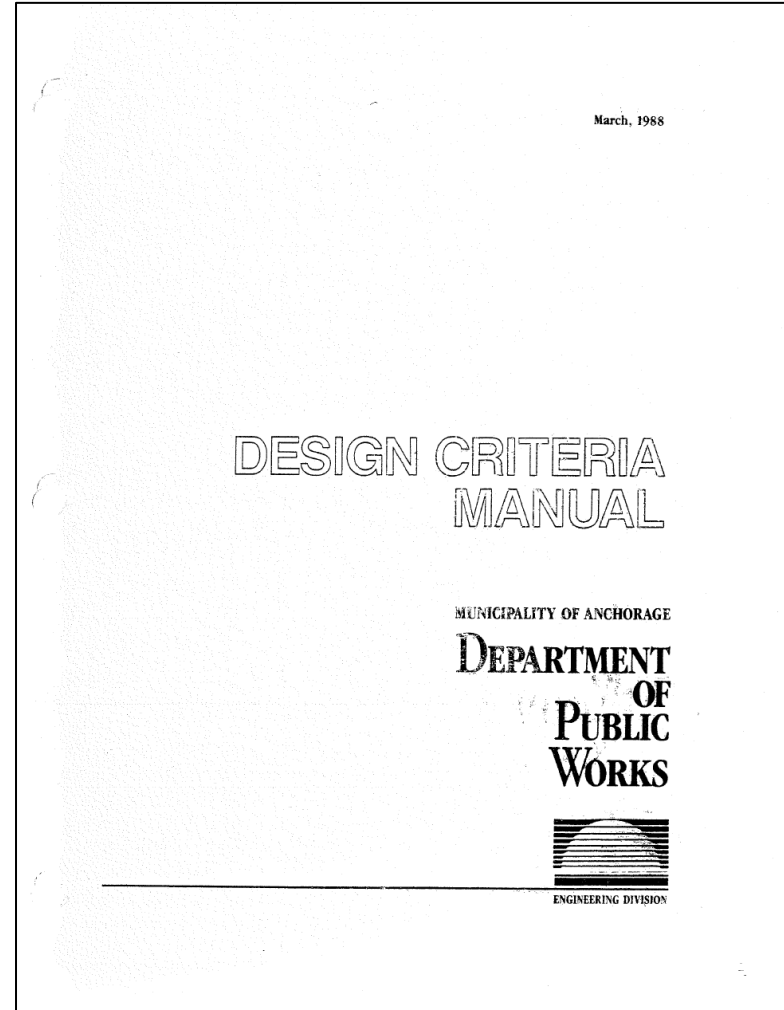
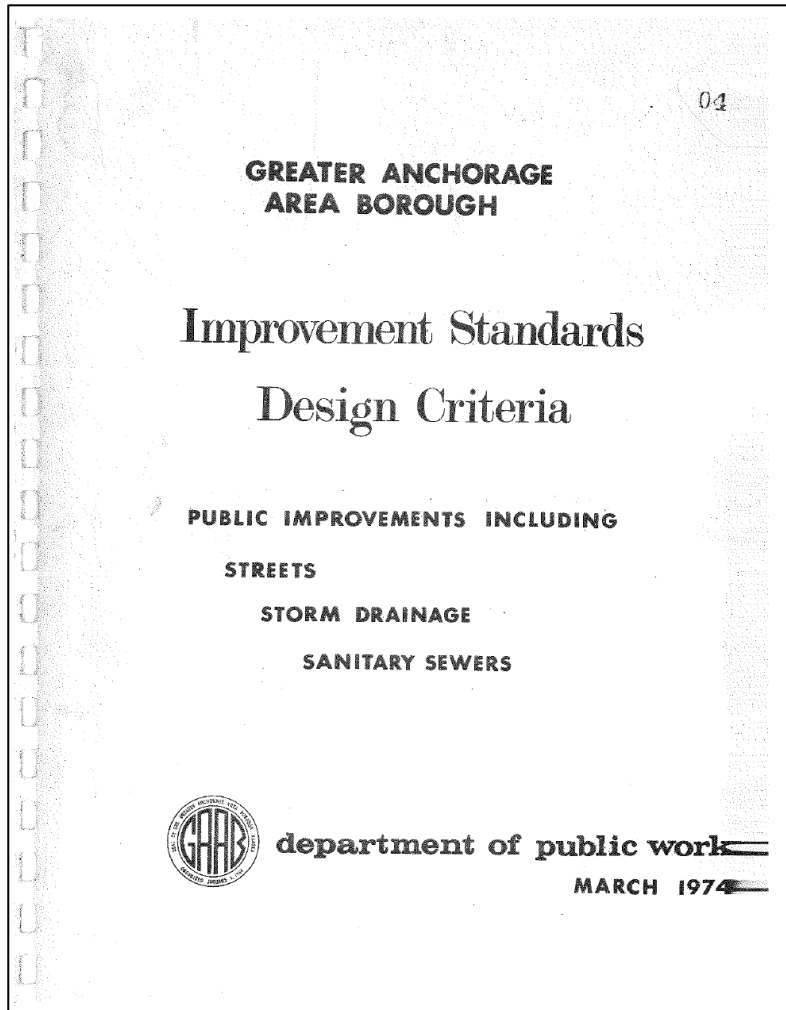
Traffic Control

Public
Transportation

Plans &
Specifications



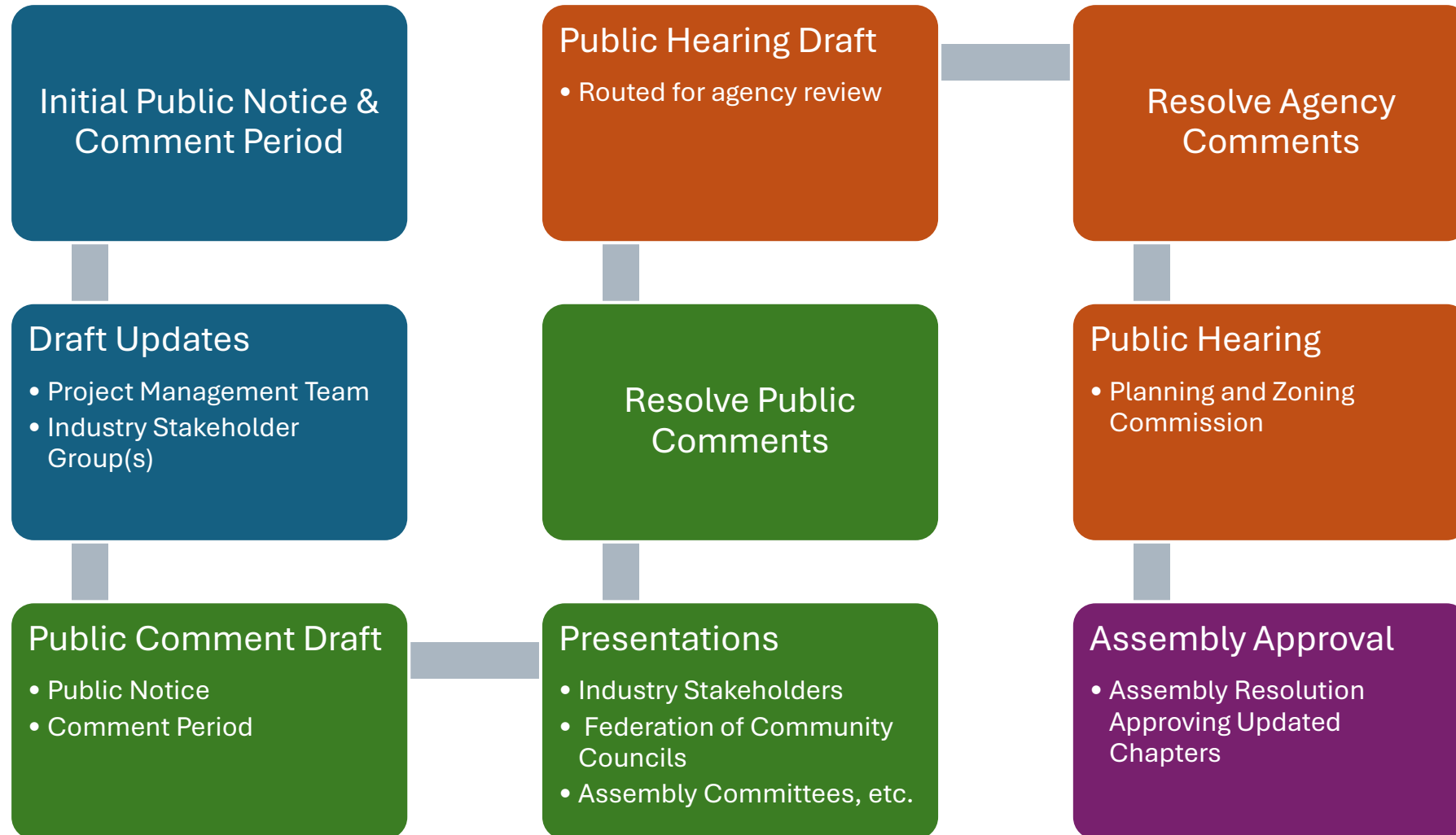
The DCM Through the Years



DCM Update Plan

DCM Chapter	Last Updated	Chapter Update Underway	Estimated Adoption
1 – Streets	2007	Pending	Q1, 2027
2 – Stormwater	2017	No	TBD
3 – Landscaping	2007	Yes	Q1, 2026
4 – Trails	2007	Pending	Q1, 2027
5 – Lighting	2007	No	TBD
6 – Traffic Control	2007	Pending	Q1, 2027
7 – Public Transportation	2007	Yes	Q1, 2026
8 – Plans & Specifications	2007	Yes	Q1, 2026

DCM Update Process



DCM Update

General

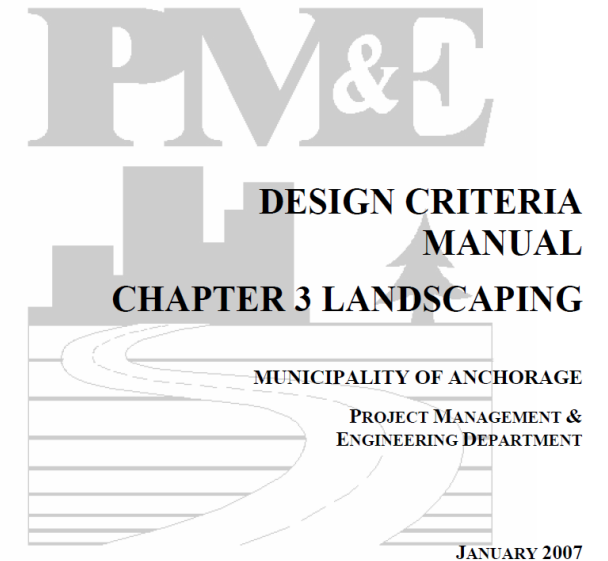
- Implementing the Safe System Approach
- Incorporating Movement & Place Framework
 - Functional Classification and Land Use
 - Austroads Publication No. AGTM04-20
 - Austroads Research Report No. AP-R611-20
- Updating Formatting
 - Full Page Text
- Moving Towards Consistent Organization
 - Design Variances
 - Glossaries, Acronyms & Abbreviations
 - References



DCM Chapter 3

Landscaping

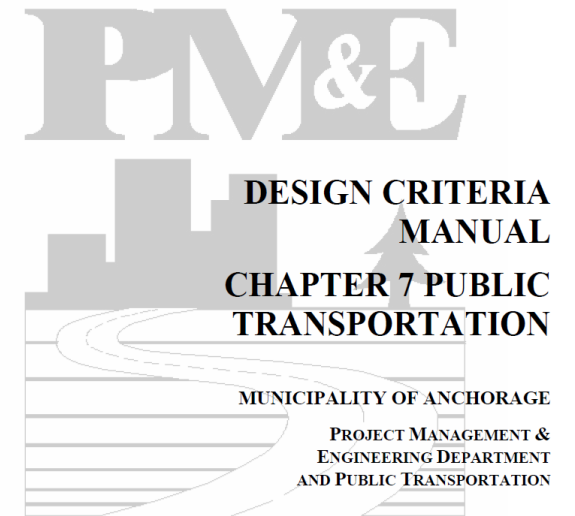
- Restructured goals to focus on Safety, Functionality, and Durability.
- Clarified planting options within roadway snow storage areas, added clustered tree and shrub planting and documented relevant maintenance practices.
- Reorganized Section 3.4 Street Landscape by **functional classification and land use** within Class A (urban/suburban) or Class B (rural) zones.
- Updated information on best practice and municipal standards, code/plan reviews, relevant documents and plans, hardiness zones, and other references
- Updated graphics



DCM Chapter 7

Public Transportation

- Updated to adhere with the most recent MOA planning efforts to promote sustainable urban growth, improve public transportation infrastructure, and accommodate the increasing need for accessible and efficient public transit options.
- Updated **bus stop location** selection methodology to locate stops near crosswalks and incorporate **land use/zoning** changes including designation of **Transit-Supportive Development Corridors (TSDC)**.
- Updated **bus stop type** selection methodology to follow a shift in MOA's approach to **modal hierarchy**, placing higher priority on transit facilities aiming to improve ridership comfort and service within the municipality.
- Incorporated PROWAG standards and updates to regional and national standards, as well as local changes transit infrastructure, equipment, policies, and regulations.
- Updated bus stop design incorporated M&O needs, as well as feedback from transit operators and DOT&PF.
- Updated transit vehicle and amenities to current including new figures.



JANUARY 2007

DCM Chapter 8

Plans and Specs

- Updated Drawing Standards for AutoCAD Civil 3D
 - Layer Naming Convention – United States National CAD Standards (no longer using MOA standard)
 - Drawing Annotation – ARIAL True Type Font (no longer using Italics)
 - Plot Styles – STB (no longer using CTB)
 - Updated Symbols Legend
- Eliminated example plans and project manual appendices
 - Providing Civil 3D templates for download
 - Referencing online project manual template



DCM Update

Next Steps

- Coming Soon
 - Public Comment Drafts (Chapters 3, 7, & 8)
 - Updates will be posted online
 - Muni.org>Departments>Project Management and Engineering>Online Publications/Forms>Design Criteria Manual
 - Notifications will be provided on Muni.org and through the project mailing list.



PM&E DCM Website



Sign Up for the DCM Update Mailing List

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 ●	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 ●	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

● Deadline for December P&Z Commission Hearing