



6.5 Farmland

Agricultural impacts in the form of permanent conversion of farmland to non-farmland use generally cannot be mitigated easily by the creation of new farmland elsewhere. For this reason, the mitigation of agricultural impacts tends to focus on those practices that assist in avoiding and/or minimizing conversion, or designing alignments to minimize disruption to existing agricultural patterns. The following lists a few general practices that can be taken into consideration to avoid or minimize farmland impacts.

- Where reasonable, the alignment should follow existing property lines and minimize dividing or splitting large tracts of farmland.
- Follow agricultural property lines as much as possible or cross fields at perpendicular angles to reduce point rows and the creation of uneconomic remnants.
- Work with local officials to control access through interchange locations. In so doing, subsequent development can possibly be directed away from large expanses of prime farmland, thus preserving this resource.