

## Recognizing Drainage Problems Checklist

When you suspect a drainage problem, it helps to ensure that each possible condition is evaluated. The following checklist is useful to have while performing field inspections.

Note that some specifications described in the following content may not be the same as the specifications followed by your agency. Always check with your State agency's standards and specifications when using these guidelines.

### Items You Should Check

- Rutting or shoving of pavement surface
- Discontinuity of surface level between the pavement and shoulder, referred to as shoulder drop-off
- Accumulation of earth or debris on shoulder
- Existence of erosion channels on ditch side slopes
- Silt or debris accumulation in ditch
- Headwalls and drainage structures that are not flush with the ground
- Damage to drainage structures, such as crushed culverts
- Grates with wide openings parallel to the roadway that can trap bicyclists
- Drains blocked by soil and debris
- Side slopes that have steepened due to erosion
- Erosion around all roadside structures such as headwalls, sign posts, and guardrail posts
- Drainage structures within the clear zone that are not traversable or protected by a suitable barrier system