

CHAPTER 3B. PAVEMENT AND CURB MARKINGS

Section 3B.01 Yellow Centerline Pavement Markings and Warrants

Standard:

Centerline pavement markings, when used, shall be the pavement markings used to delineate the separation of traffic lanes that have opposite directions of travel on a roadway and shall be yellow.

Option:

Centerline pavement markings may be placed at a location that is not the geometric center of the roadway.

On roadways without continuous centerline pavement markings, short sections may be marked with centerline pavement markings to control the position of traffic at specific locations, such as around curves, over hills, on approaches to highway-railroad grade crossings, at highway-railroad grade crossings, and at bridges.

Standard:

The centerline markings on two-lane, two-way roadways shall be one of the following as shown in Figure 3B-1:

- A. Two-direction passing zone markings consisting of a normal broken yellow line where crossing the centerline markings for passing with care is permitted for traffic traveling in either direction;**
- B. One-direction no-passing zone markings consisting of a normal broken yellow line and a normal solid yellow line where crossing the centerline markings for passing with care is permitted for the traffic traveling adjacent to the broken line, but is prohibited for traffic traveling adjacent to the solid line; and**
- C. Two-direction no-passing zone markings consisting of two normal solid yellow lines where crossing the centerline markings for passing is prohibited for traffic traveling in either direction.**

The centerline markings on undivided two-way roadways with four or more lanes for moving motor vehicle traffic always available shall be the two-direction no-passing zone markings consisting of two normal solid yellow lines as shown in Figure 3B-2.

Guidance:

On two-way roadways with three through lanes for moving motor vehicle traffic, two lanes should be designated for traffic in one direction by using one- or two-direction no-passing zone markings as shown in Figure 3B-3.

Standard:

Centerline markings shall be placed on all paved urban arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 6.1 m (20 ft) or more in width and an ADT of 6,000 vehicles per day or greater. Centerline markings shall also be placed on all paved two-way streets or highways that have three or more lanes for moving motor vehicle traffic.

Guidance:

Centerline markings should be placed on paved urban arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 6.1 m (20 ft) or more in width and an ADT of 4,000 vehicles per day or greater. Centerline markings should also be placed on all rural arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 5.5 m (18 ft) or more in width and an ADT of 3,000 vehicles per day or greater. Centerline markings should also be placed on other traveled ways where an engineering study indicates such a need.

Engineering judgment should be used in determining whether to place centerline markings on traveled ways that are less than 4.9 m (16 ft) wide because of the potential for traffic encroaching on the pavement edges, traffic being affected by parked vehicles, and traffic encroaching into the opposing traffic lane.

Option:

Centerline markings may be placed on other paved two-way traveled ways that are 4.9 m (16 ft) or more in width.

If a traffic count is not available, the ADTs described in this Section may be estimates that are based on engineering judgment.

Standard:

Centerline patterns shall be selected from those shown in Figures 3A-101(CA) and 3A-104(CA).

Raised retroreflective pavement markers shall be used to supplement the centerline markings on State highways, except in snow areas.

Support:

On horizontal curves with radii less than 1000 m (3280 ft) and without street lighting, Detail 22 instead of Detail 21 can be helpful in improving the delineation for centerline markings as it includes retroreflective raised pavement markers. Detail 22 can be applied in advance of the approach to the curve per Table 2C-4 and continued throughout the length of the curve.

Refer to CVC 21460 for Double Lines.

Refer to CVC 21460.5 for Two-Way Left-Turn Lanes.

Standard:

A left edge line shall consist of a solid 100 mm (4 in) wide yellow line, yellow reflective pavement markers or a combination of line and markers as shown in Figure 3A-105(CA).

Option:

Two normal solid yellow lines may be used as a left edge line on a divided roadway for more emphasis when motorists tend to use the shoulder for a through lane or where encroachments onto the shoulder occasionally occur.

Support:

Left edge line patterns for median islands are shown in Figure 3A-107(CA).

Section 3B.02 No-Passing Zone Pavement Markings and Warrants

Standard:

No-passing zones shall be marked by either the one direction no-passing zone pavement markings or the two-direction no-passing zone pavement markings described previously and shown in Figures 3B-1 and 3B-3.

When centerline markings are used, no-passing zone markings shall be used on two-way roadways at lane reduction transitions (see Section 3B.09) and on approaches to obstructions that must be passed on the right (see Section 3B.10).

Guidance:

~~Where the distance between successive no-passing zones is less than 120 m (400 ft), no-passing markings should connect the zones.~~

Standard:

If the gap between successive no-passing zones is less than the sight distance for the prevailing speed shown in Table 3B-1, the no-passing zone shall be continuous.

Where centerline markings are used, no-passing zone markings shall be used on approaches to highway-rail grade crossings in conformance with Section 8B.20.

Option:

In addition to pavement markings, no-passing zone signs (see Sections 2B.29, 2B.30, and 2C.35) may be used to emphasize the existence and extent of a no-passing zone.

Support:

Section 11-307 of the "Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) Revised" contains further information regarding no-passing zones. The "UVC" can be obtained from the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances at the address shown on Page i.

Standard:

On two-way, two- or three-lane roadways where centerline markings are installed, no-passing zones shall be established at vertical and horizontal curves and other locations where an engineering study indicates that passing must be prohibited because of inadequate sight distances or other special conditions.

On three-lane roadways where the direction of travel in the center lane transitions from one direction to the other, a no-passing buffer zone shall be provided in the center lane as shown in Figure 3B-4. A lane transition shall be provided at each end of the buffer zone.

The buffer zone shall be a median island that is at least 15 m (50 ft) in length.

Delineators, object markers, barricades, and channelizing devices are visibly placed in a vertical position similar to signs above the roadway.

Guidance:

The materials used for markings should provide the specified color throughout their useful life.

Consideration should be given to selecting pavement marking materials that will minimize tripping or loss of traction for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Object markers and delineators should not present a vertical or horizontal clearance obstacle for pedestrians.

Section 3A.04 Colors

Standard:

Markings shall be yellow, white, red, green or blue. The colors for markings shall conform to the standard highway colors. Black in conjunction with one of the above colors shall be a usable color.

The color of curb markings shall conform to CVC 21458. Refer to CVC 21374 for exceptions.

When used, white markings for longitudinal lines shall delineate:

- A. The separation of traffic flows in the same direction.
- B. The right edge of the roadway.

When used, yellow markings for longitudinal lines shall delineate:

- A. The separation of traffic traveling in opposite directions.
- B. The left edge of the roadways of divided and one-way highways and ramps.
- C. The separation of two-way left turn lanes and reversible lanes from other lanes.

When used, red raised pavement markers shall delineate roadways that shall not be entered or used.

Support:

Red pavement markers are used to alert possible wrong way drivers on freeways as shown in Figure 3A-102(CA), Details 14 and 14A.

When used, blue markings shall supplement white markings for parking spaces for persons with disabilities. When used, blue raised pavement markers shall indicate locations of fire hydrants along a roadway.

Option:

Black may be used in combination with the above colors where a light-colored pavement does not provide sufficient contrast with the markings.

A 75 mm (3 in) black line may be placed between the 100 mm (4 in) wide yellow lines on streets and highways under local jurisdiction.

Standard:

A 75 mm (3 in) black line shall be placed between the 100 mm (4 in) wide yellow lines on State highways.

Support:

When used in combination with other colors, black is not considered a marking color, but only a contrast-enhancing system for the markings.

Section 3A.05 Widths and Patterns of Longitudinal Pavement Markings

Standard:

The widths and patterns of longitudinal lines shall be as follows:

- A. A normal line is 100 to 150 mm (4 to 6 in) wide.
- B. A wide line is at least twice the width of a normal line. The width of the line indicates the degree of emphasis.
- C. A double line consists of two parallel lines separated by a discernible space.
- D. A broken line consists of normal line segments separated by gaps.
- E. A dotted line shall consist of noticeably shorter line segments separated by shorter gaps than used for a broken line. The width of a dotted line shall be at least the same as the width of the line it extends.

CHAPTER 3A. GENERAL

Section 3A.01 Functions and Limitations

Support:

Markings on highways have important functions in providing guidance and information for the road user. Major marking types include pavement and curb markings, object markers, delineators, colored pavements, barricades, channelizing devices and islands. In some cases, markings are used to supplement other traffic control devices such as signs, signals and other markings. In other instances, markings are used alone to effectively convey regulations, guidance, or warnings in ways not obtainable by the use of other devices.

Markings have limitations. Visibility of the markings can be limited by snow, debris, and water on or adjacent to the markings. Marking durability is affected by material characteristics, traffic volumes, weather, and location. However, under most highway conditions, markings provide important information while allowing minimal diversion of attention from the roadway.

Pavement markings can enhance roadway delineation with the addition of audible and tactile features such as bars, differential surface profiles, raised pavement markers, or other devices intended to alert the road user that a delineation on the roadway is being traversed.

The general functions of longitudinal lines are:

- A. A double line indicates maximum or special restrictions,
- B. A solid line discourages or prohibits crossing (depending on the specific application),
- C. A broken line indicates a permissive condition, and
- D. A dotted line provides guidance.

Section 3A.02 Standardization of Application

Standard:

Each standard marking shall be used only to convey the meaning prescribed for that marking in this Manual. When used for applications not described herein, markings shall conform in all respects to the principles and standards set forth herein.

Guidance:

Before any new highway, paved detour, or temporary route is opened to traffic, all necessary markings should be in place.

Standard:

Markings that are no longer applicable for roadway conditions or restrictions and that might cause confusion for the road user shall be removed or obliterated to be unidentifiable as a marking as soon as practical. Markings that must be visible at night shall be retroreflective unless ambient illumination assures that the markings are adequately visible. All markings on Interstate highways shall be retroreflective.

Option:

Markings may be temporarily masked with tape until they can be removed or obliterated.

Standard:

All longitudinal pavement markings shall be retroreflective except non-reflective pavement markers and directional markings for tourists. Refer to CVC 21374.

Guidance:

If used, the masking tape should match the pavement surface color and not provide undue contrast.

Support:

Use of black tape for temporary "masking" is effective for new Asphalt Concrete pavement. However, for faded Asphalt Concrete pavement or Portland Cement Concrete pavements, black "masking" pavement markings could appear as a stripe in low light conditions and result in confusion to road users.

Section 3A.03 Materials

Support:

Pavement and curb markings are commonly placed by using paints or thermoplastics; however, other suitable marking materials, including raised pavement markers and colored pavements, are also used.