



Meeting Date: February 02, 2023	From: John Bamfield, PE, Caltrans
Item Number: 21-06	
Sponsored By: Yue Wang, PE, Caltrans	Presented By: John Bamfield, PE,
	Caltrans

Description: Revision to California Manual on Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) Section 3A.06 to include the minimum requirements of 6" wide longitudinal traffic lines for permanent pavement delineation on State Highway System (SHS).

Recommendation:

Motion by committee to recommend inclusion of the proposed revisions to the CA MUTCD Section 3A.06 to include the minimum requirements of 6" wide longitudinal traffic lines for permanent pavement delineation on State Highway System and clarify the use of 4" width as optional for local agency roadways.

<u>Agency Making Request/Sponsor:</u>

John Bamfield, Caltrans / Yue Wang, CTCDC Member.

Background:

Caltrans memorandum dated May 19, 2017 and titled "Implementation of six-inch wide traffic lines and discontinuing use of non-reflective raised pavement markers" implemented the policy and standards of requiring minimum 6" wide for longitudinal traffic lines on the SHS. This was in compliance with the CA MUTCD Section 3A.06, which requires minimum 4" width for longitudinal traffic lines.

The purpose of increasing the width of longitudinal traffic lines was to benefit older drivers and increase visibility of laneline delineation for all road users by providing improved roadway guidance, especially during periods of impaired visibility, such as wet conditions at night (refer to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population").

When a state highway intersects with a local road, only mainline state highway longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines are required to be 6" wide lines. Caltrans Standard Plans and Standard Specifications were revised to comply with this memorandum's new requirements of 6" wide traffic lanelines. CA MUTCD text and figures containing details showing the width and patterns of longitudinal lines were not revised to comply with Caltrans minimum requirements of the 6" wide traffic lanelines. This discrepancy between the Caltrans Standard Plans and the CA MUTCD has led to confusion amongst local transportation agencies and consultants operating in California.





The proposed revision includes changes to text and adds figures showing details for the 6" wide traffic lines and their applicability only on the SHS while retaining the 4" minimum width for local agency roadways.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Caltrans memorandum dated May 19, 2017 "Implementation of sixinch wide traffic lines and discontinuing use of non-reflective raised pavement markers".

Attachment B – Proposed Revisions to CA MUTCD Section 3A.06. Attachment C – Proposed Revisions to Figures 3A-101(CA) through 3A-114(CA).





ATTACHMENT A





Attachment A – Caltrans memorandum dated May 19, 2017 "Implementation of sixinch wide traffic lines and discontinuing use of non-reflective raised pavement markers".

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

California State Transportation Agency

Memorandum

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DIVISION CHIEFS

Engineering Services, Construction, Design, and Maintenance

DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Traffic Operations, Maintenance, Construction, and Design

Date: May 19, 2017

File:

Division of Traffic

Operations

From: AMARJEET S. BENIPAL

Acting Chief

Division of Traffic Operations

Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX-INCH WIDE TRAFFIC LINES AND DISCONTINUING USE OF NON-REFLECTIVE RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is discontinuing the use of Type A and Type AY non-reflective raised pavement markers (RPMs) and increasing the width of all four-inch wide longitudinal traffic lines to six-inch wide lines for permanent pavement delineation on state highways. The revisions to the 2015 Standard Plans and Standard Specifications will be posted in July 2017. This Memorandum provides guidance regarding the implementation of the Revised Standard Plans (RSP) and Revised Standard Specifications (RSS).

Honayut S. Bempel

The increased width of longitudinal traffic lines will benefit older drivers and increase visibility of laneline delineation for all road users by providing improved roadway guidance, especially during periods of impaired visibility, such as wet conditions at night (refer to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population").

Type A and Type AY RPMs are non-reflective and do not comply with "minimum maintained retroeflectivity of pavement markings" per FHWA's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Amendments (SNPA) to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Discontinuing the use of Type A and Type AY RPMs will allow the use of durable striping material with retroreflectivity and enhanced visibility, reduce highway workers' exposure to traffic, reduce traffic delays during lane closures, and achieve uniformity with other states.

Non-Reflective RPMs:

Discontinue the use of Type A and Type AY RPMs for permanent pavement delineation on state highways on all new construction contracts and maintenance restriping of existing traffic lines.

Six-inch Longitudinal Traffic Lines:

 All longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines must be six inches wide.

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DISTRICT DIRECTORS, et al. May 19, 2017 Page 2 of 2

- On maintenance refresher activities (Repair/Replace striping), all longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines must be six-inch wide lines except existing four-inch wide double lines with retroreflective pavement markers on both sides of the longitudinal line (Details 16, 19, 22, 29, 32, 34, and 35) and recessed striping shall remain four inches wide.
- When a state highway intersects with a local road, only mainline state highway longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines must be six-inch wide lines.

This memorandum rescinds Traffic Operations Program Directive (TOPD) 00-02 "Policy for Optional Laneline Delineation." (attached)

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Duper Tong, Chief, Office of Traffic Engineering at (916) 654-5176, or by e-mail at duper.tong@dot.ca.gov.

Attachment:

Traffic Operations Program Directive (TOPD) 00-02

c: Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations Karla Sutliff, Deputy Director, Project Delivery

> "Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"





STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DIRECTIVE
TR-0011 (New 10/28/1999)

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS PROG	RAM DIRECTIVE	NUMBER	Page 1 of 2						
KIM NYSTROM, ACTING PROGRAM MAN	AGER (Signature)	DATE ISSUED	02 (plus attachments) EFFECTIVE DATE						
Original signed by Kim N	ystrom 2/01/2000	2/01/2000 DISTRIBUTION	Immediately upon issue						
Policy for Optional Laneline Delineation		All District Directors							
							All District Division Chiefs - Planning		
							Engineering Service Center Director		
							⊠ All Headquarters Program Managers (for		
		Maintenance, Construction & Project Development)							
DOES THIS DIRECTIVE SUPERSEDE ANOTHE	ER ☐YES ☑NO	IF YES, DESCRIBE							
WILL THIS DIRECTIVE BE INCORPORATED IN THE TRAFFIC MANUAL?	⊠YES □NO	IF YES, DESCRIBE Pages 6-5 & 6-26	will be amended per attachment						
PRECTIVE. Practice has been to require non-reflected Detail 10 for freeway ramps and Detail 10 for freeway ramps and Detail practice ramps, freeway to freeway connector either Detail 9, a 2.14-meter solid where the control of using either Detail 12, a 3.66 meters.	ail 13 (Page 6-26), for lands and collector roads. Efforties and collector roads. Efforties atripe, or Detail 10, the freeway ramps for speed or solid white stripe or Detail on freeways and expressions.	eline pattern on freew ective immediately, I ree (3) non-reflective zones 60 km/hr or les ail 13, four (4) non-re sways for speed zone	vays, expressways, freeway Districts have the option of using white markers for lanelines ss. Districts also have the option effective white markers for lane es 70 km/hr or more. This does						
lines (between retroreflective marker not change the pattern for raised retro laneline marking guidance is noted in of the Caltrans Traffic Manual.	oreflective markers shown n red on the attached page	s 6-5 (Section 6-02.2)	and 6-26 (Details 9, 12 and 14)						





STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DIRECTIVE [R-0011 (New 10/28/1999)

Continuation

Page 2 of 2

IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

If a freeway, expressway, freeway ramp, freeway to freeway connector or collector road has delineation with non-reflective markers as in Details 10 and 13, a District may place a white stripe on the non-reflective markers in accordance with Details 9 and 12 if this is judged to improve visibility of delineation.

For new construction, if a District proposes using a combination of both nonreflective markers and white stripe, District Traffic Operations Liaison should be consulted.

3ACKGROUND

District 3 has undertaken three test projects where the non-reflective markers were replaced with thermoplastic lanelines. These were on sections of Interstate Routes 5 and 80 and State Route 51. Before and after accident data were analyzed for periods between 1990 and 1998. The accident data showed no increase in lane change type accidents on any of these routes.





Traffic Manual MARKINGS 6-5

Application of Pavement and Curb Markings 6-02

6-02.1 Centerlines

A yellow centerline separates traffic traveling in opposite directions. It need not be at the geometrical center of the pavement. Centerlines provide important guidance to motorists. On roads where a continuous centerline is not used, short sections may be used to control the position of traffic at specific locations, such as around curves, over hills, and on approaches to intersections, railroad crossings, and bridges.

Centerlines should be used on paved highways or portions thereof under the following conditions:

- 1. In rural areas on two-lane pavements 4.88 m or greater in width with speed zones of 55 km/h or more.
- 2. In business or residential districts on through highways, and on other highways where there are significant traffic volumes.
- On all undivided pavements of four or more lanes.
- 4. At other locations where an engineering study indicates a need for them.

The centerline on undivided highways where three or more lanes are always available shall be a double solid yellow line.

Centerline patterns shall be selected from those shown in Figure 6-1, CENTERLINES - 2 LANE HIGHWAYS. Raised reflective pavement markers shall be used to supplement the centerline markings on State highways, except in snow areas.

INTERSECTION MARKINGS - CVC 21752 restricts passing (driving on left side of a two-way roadway) when approaching within 30 m (100 feet) of or when traversing any intersection. The patterns and policy are shown in Figure 6-9, INTERSECTION MARKINGS.

6-02.2 Lanelines

White lanelines separate lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction and shall be used on all multilane highways.

A single solid white line may be used as the laneline in critical areas to discourage lane changing. Typical locations for such applications are tunnels or bridges having width restrictions, interchange areas where lane changing disrupts traffic flow and the delineation of separate turn lanes.

It may also be used to separate through traffic lanes from special secondary lanes, such as passing lanes, left or right-turn lanes and transit bus lanes.

Laneline patterns shall be selected from those shown in Figure 6-2, LANELINES - MULTILANE HIGHWAYS. Detail 9 or 10 (60 km/h or less) or Detail 12 or 13 (70 km/h or more) shall be used on State freeways, expressways, freeway ramps, freeway to freeway connectors and collector roads, except in snow areas.

1. LANEDROPS

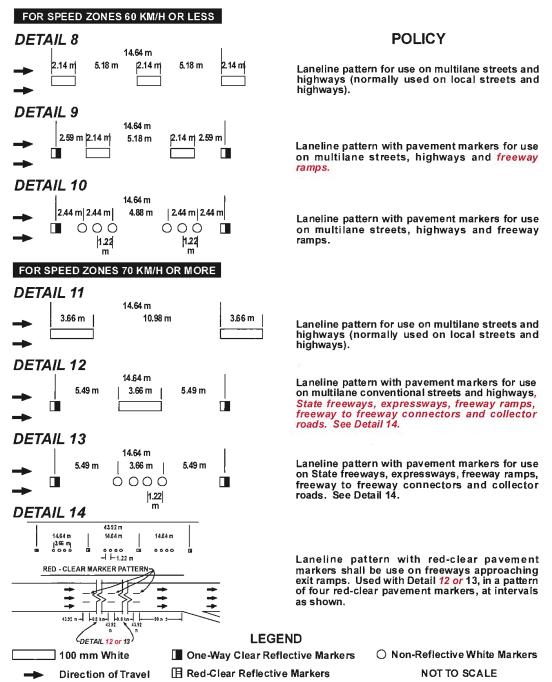
A. Freeways - A 200 mm wide dotted white lane drop line shall be placed in advance of lane drops at exit-ramps. The basic purpose of this line is to provide a "crossable" line to show the edge of the roadway to entering, exiting, and through traffic. If the dropped lane is an auxiliary lane 0.8 km or less in length, the lane drop line should extend throughout the entire length. The lane drop line pattern shall be as shown in Figure 6-11, LANE DROP MARKINGS. Also, see Figure 6-13, LANE DROP SIGNING AND MARKINGS AT EXIT RAMPS, and Figure 6-14, FREEWAY TO FREEWAY CONNECTOR SIGNING AND MARKINGS, for further details of marking and signing on State freeways.





6-26 MARKINGS Traffic Manual

Figure 6-2 LANELINES - MULTILANE HIGHWAYS







ATTACHMENT B





Attachment B – Proposed Revisions to CA MUTCD Section 3A.06.

Proposal:

Note:

Black text is unedited National MUTCD text adopted for use in current CA MUTCD. Black strikethrough text is National MUTCD text that is not applicable in California as shown in current CA MUTCD.

Blue text is California text additions adopted for use in current CA MUTCD.

Red strikethrough text is text that is proposed to be deleted from the current CA MUTCD by this proposal.

Red text is text that is proposed to be included in the current CA MUTCD by this proposal.

Revise Section 3A.06 as shown:

Section 3A.06 Functions, Widths, and Patterns of Longitudinal Pavement Markings Standard:

- 01 The general functions of longitudinal lines shall be:
- 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 or warning of a downstream change in lane function.
- 02 The widths and patterns of longitudinal lines shall be as follows:
- A. Normal line—4 to 6 inches wide.
- B. Wide line—at least twice the width of a normal line.
- C. Double line—two parallel lines separated by a discernible space.
- D. Broken line—normal line segments separated by gaps.
- E. Dotted line—noticeably shorter line segments separated by shorter gaps than used for a broken line. The width of a dotted line extension shall be at least the same as the width of the line it extends.

All longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines on state highways shall be 6 inches wide. When a state highway intersects with a local road, only mainline state highway longitudinal traffic lines for lanelines, edgelines, and centerlines shall be 6 inches wide.

All longitudinal traffic lines on local agency roadways shall be minimum 4 inches wide.

Support:

03 The width of the line indicates the degree of emphasis.

Guidance:

04 Broken lines should consist of 10-foot line segments and 30-foot gaps, or dimensions in a similar ratio of line segments to gaps as appropriate for traffic speeds and need for delineation.

Support:

05 Patterns for dotted lines depend on the application (see Sections 3B.04 and 3B.08.)

06 A dotted line for line extensions within an intersection or taper area should consist of 2-foot line segments and 2- to 6-foot gaps. A dotted line used as a lane line should consist of 3-foot line segments and 9-foot gaps. **Standard:**

07 The widths and patterns of longitudinal lines shall conform to the details shown in Figures 3A-101(CA) through 3A-113(CA) 3A-114(CA).





ATTACHMENT C





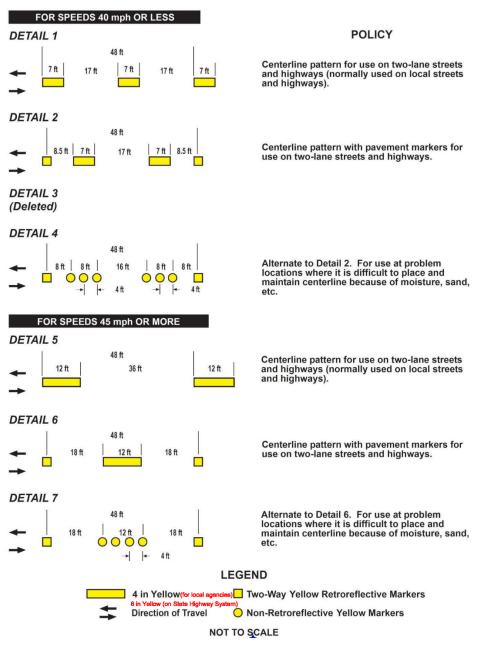
Attachment C - Proposed Revisions to Figures 3A-101(CA) through 3A-114(CA).

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Figure 3A-101 (CA). Centerlines - 2 Lane Highways



Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings



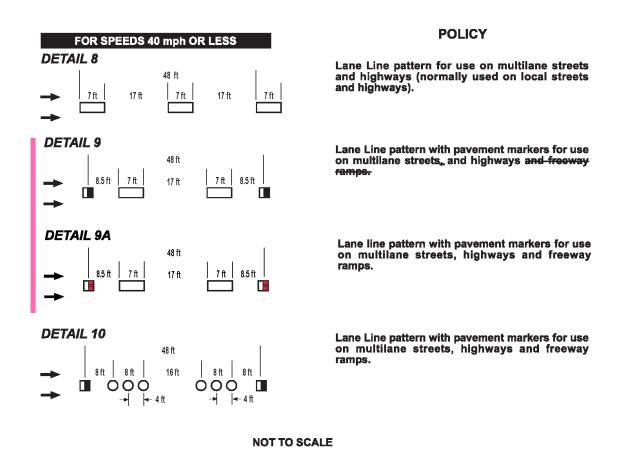


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Figure 3A-102 (CA). Lane Lines - Multilane Highways (Sheet 1 of 2)



LEGEND

Red-Clear Retroreflective Markers

4 in White (for local egencies) One-Way Clear Retroreflective Markers ONon-Retroreflective White Markers

Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings

Direction of Travel

Revised March 30, 2021



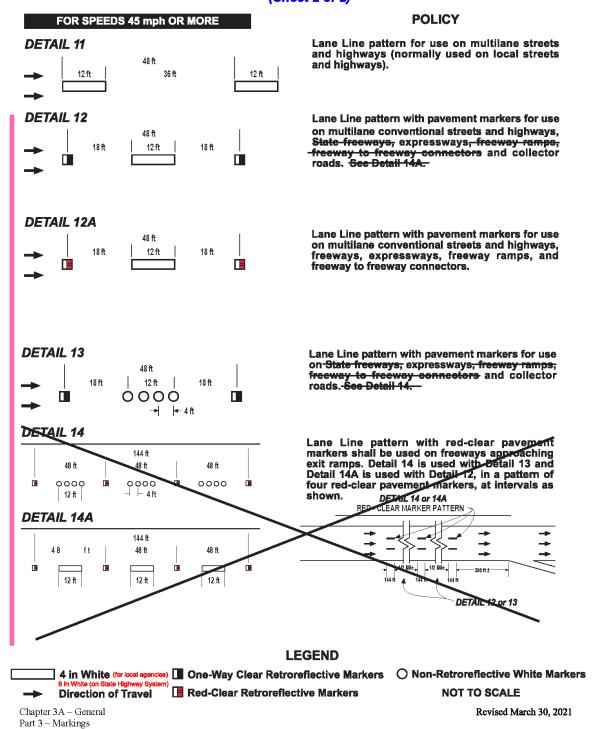


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Figure 3A-102 (CA). Lane Lines - Multilane Highways (Sheet 2 of 2)

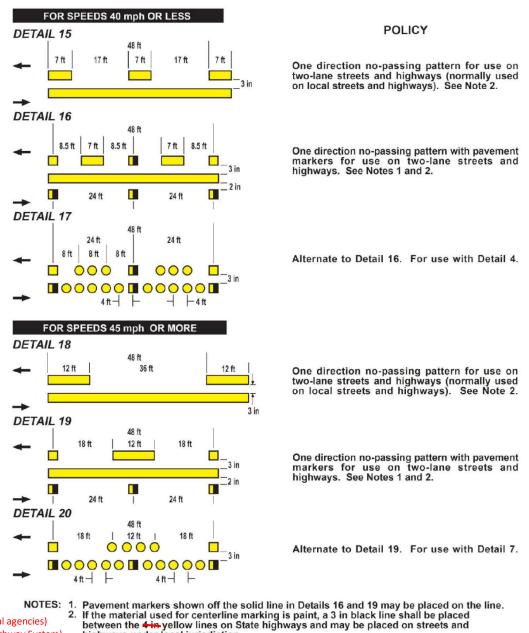






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Figure 3A-103 (CA). No Passing Zones - One Direction



4 to 6 in Yellow (for local agencies) 6 in Yellow (on State Highway System) highways under local jurisdiction.



Chapter 3A - General Part 3 - Markings



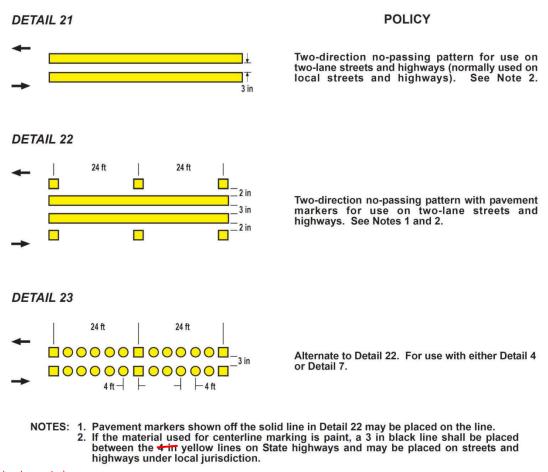


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Page 656

Figure 3A-104 (CA). No Passing Zones - Two Direction



NOT TO SCALE



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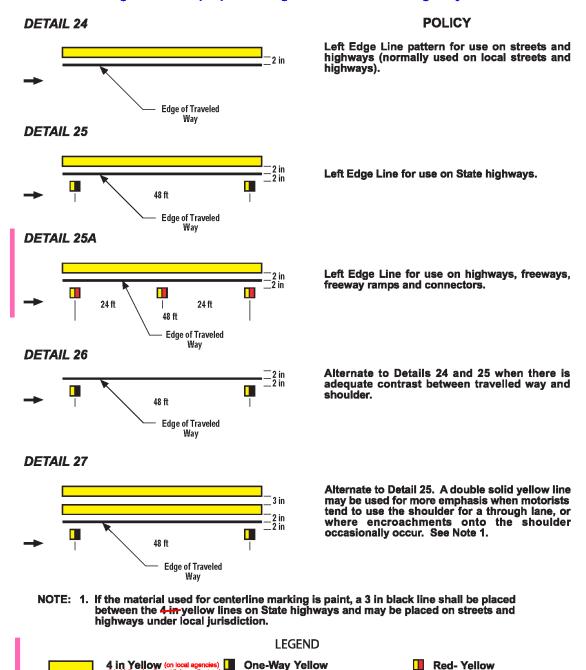




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Figure 3A-105 (CA). Left Edge Lines for Divided Highways



Retroreflective Markers

NOT TO SCALE

Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings **Direction of Travel**

Revised March 30, 2021

Retroreflective Markers



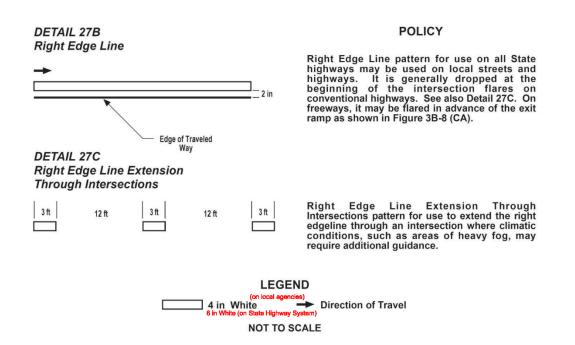


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Figure 3A-106 (CA). Right Edge Line and Right Edge Line Extension Through Intersections



Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings



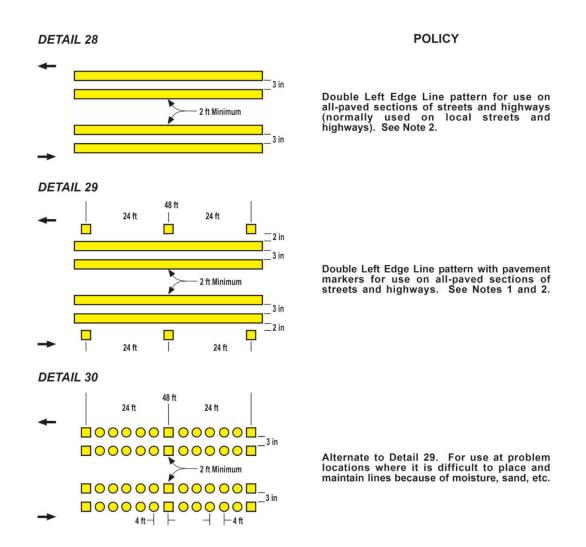


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Figure 3A-107 (CA). Median Islands



NOTES: 1. Pavement markers shown off the solid line in Detail 29 may be placed on the line.
2. If the material used for centerline marking is paint, a 3 in black line shall be placed between the 4 in yellow lines on State highways and may be placed on streets and highways under local jurisdiction.

4 to 6 in Yellow (for local agencies)
6 in Yellow (on State Highway System)

4 in Yellow
Direction of Travel

Non-Retroreflective Yellow Markers

NOT TO SCALE

Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings





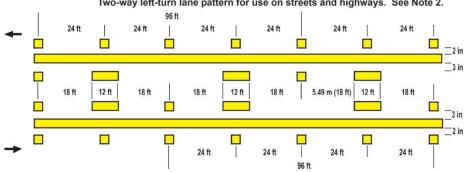
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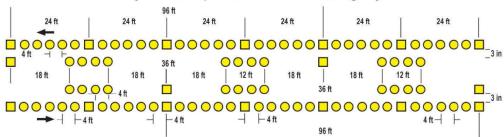
Figure 3A-108 (CA). Two-Way Left-Turn Lanes

DETAIL 31 POLICY Two-way left-turn lane pattern for use on streets and highways (normally used on local streets and highways). See Note 2. 12 ft 12 ft 12 ft 36 ft **DETAIL 32 POLICY** Two-way left-turn lane pattern for use on streets and highways. See Note 2.



DETAIL 33 POLICY

Two-way left-turn lane pattern for use on streets and highways.



NOTES: 1. Pavement markers shown off the solid line in Detail 32 may be placed on the line.

2. If the material used for centerline marking is paint, a 3 in black line shall be placed between the 4 in yellow lines on State highways and may be placed on streets and highways under local jurisdiction.



Chapter 3A - General Part 3 – Markings



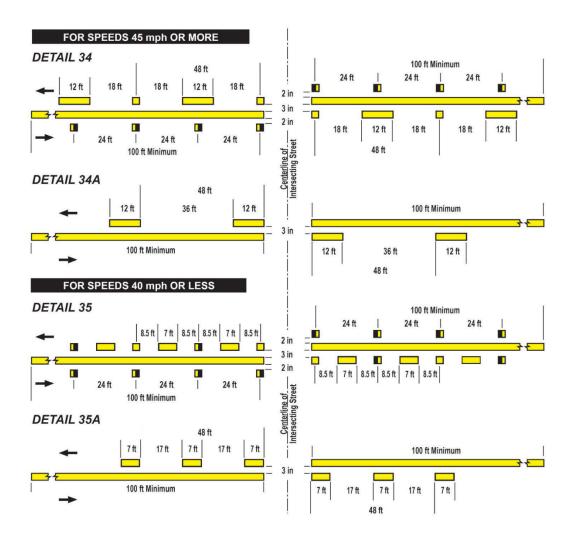


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Figure 3A-109 (CA). Intersection Markings



- NOTES: 1. Raised Pavement Markers are optional on non-state highways.
 Raised Pavement Markers shown off the solid line may be placed on the line.
 If the material used for centerline marking is paint, a 3 in black line shall be placed between the 4 in yellow lines on State highways and may be placed on streets and highways under local jurisdiction.

4 to 6 in Yellow (for local agencies) 6 in Yellow (on State Highway System) **LEGEND** ■ Two-Way Yellow Retroreflective Markers **NOT TO SCALE Direction of Travel** One-Way Yellow Retroreflective Markers

> Chapter 3A - General Part 3 - Markings



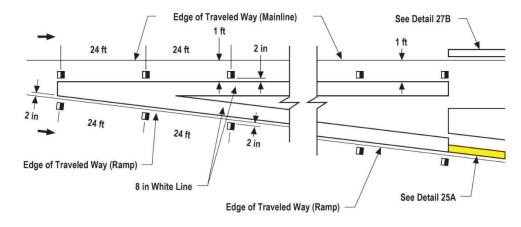


 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{California MUTCD 2014 Edition} \\ \textbf{(FHWA's MUTCD 2009 Edition, including Revisions 1 \& 2, as amended for use in California)} \\ \end{tabular}$

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Figure 3A-110 (CA). Freeway Exit and Entrance Ramp Channelizing Line (Sheet 1 of 2)

DETAIL 36 - Exit Ramp Neutral Area (Gore) Channelizing Lines (See Figure 3B-8 (CA), Sheet 2 of 2)





 $\begin{array}{l} Chapter\ 3A-General\\ Part\ 3-Markings \end{array}$





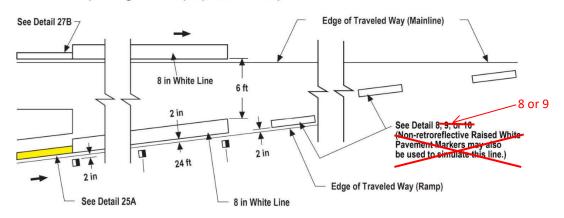
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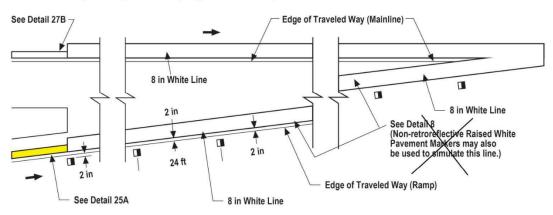
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Figure 3A-110 (CA). Freeway Exit and Entrance Ramp Channelizing Lines (Sheet 2 of 2)

DETAIL 36A - Entrance Ramp Neutral Area (Merge) Channelizing Lines (See Figure 3B-9 (CA), Sheet 1 of 2)



DETAIL 36B - Entrance Ramp Neutral Area (Acceleration Lane) Channelizing Lines (See Figure 3B-8 (CA), Sheet 3 of 3)





Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings





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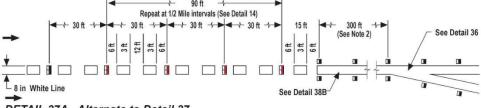
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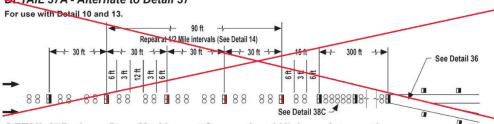
Figure 3A-111 (CA). Lane Drop Markings

DETAIL 37 - Lane Drop Markings at Exit Ramps

Marking pattern for use on mandatory lane drops at freeway exit ramps and freeway to freeway connectors.

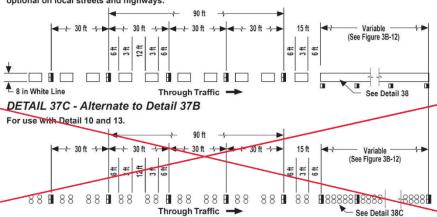


DETAIL 37A - Alternate to Detail 37



DETAIL 37B - Lane Drop Markings at Conventional Highway Intersections

Marking pattern for use on mandatory turn lanes at intersections. Pavement markers shown are optional on local streets and highways.



DETAIL 37D - Lane Drop Line For Two-Lane Roundabouts

For use on mandatory exiting lanes from two-lane roundabouts.



NOTES: 1. Pavement markers shown off the solid line in Detail 37 may be placed on the line.

The Solid Channelizing Line shown in Detail 37 and 37A may be omitted on short auxiliary lanes where weaving length is critical.

LEGEND

- 88 Non-Retroreflective White Markers | One-Way Clear Retroreflective Markers

Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings



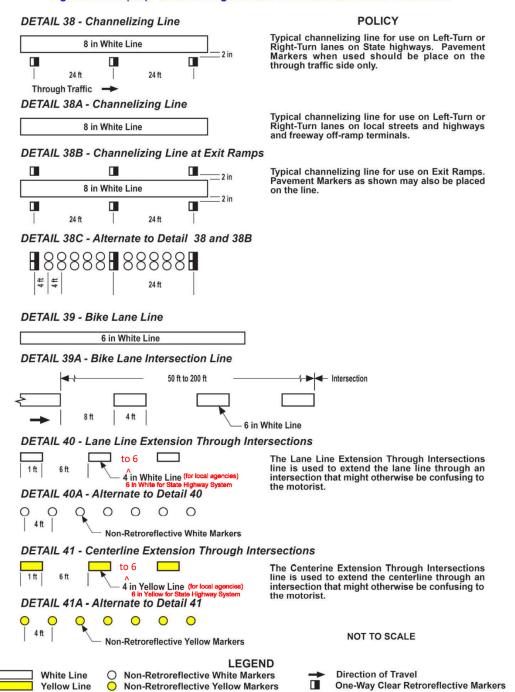


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Figure 3A-112 (CA). Channelizing Line and Lane Line/Centerline Extensions



Chapter 3A – General Part 3 – Markings





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Figure 3A-114 (CA). Exit Ramp with Enhanced Pavement Markers for Wrong Way Details

