

Part VIII. DEFINITIONS

8A-1 Definition of Words and Phrases

The words and phrases defined in the following sections shall, for the purpose of the Manual, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Part of the Manual, except when the context otherwise requires.

8A-2 General Definitions

1. Authorized Emergency Vehicle—Such fire department vehicles, police vehicles and ambulances as are publicly owned, and such other publicly or privately owned vehicles as designated by the public body or official having jurisdiction.

2. Crosswalk

(a) That part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway;

(b) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

3. Curb—A vertical or sloping member generally along and defining the edge of a roadway.

4. Curb line—The boundary between a roadway and a sidewalk, usually marked by a curb.

5. District, Business—The territory contiguous to and including a highway, when within any 600 feet along such highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, or office buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings which occupy at least 300 feet of frontage on one side or 300 feet collectively on both sides of the highway.

6. District, Residence—The territory contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business district when the property on such highway for a distance of 300 feet or more is in the main improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.

7. District, Rural—Any territory not included in a business or residence district as defined herein, whether or not within the boundaries of a municipality.

8. District, Urban—The territory contiguous to and including any street which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of a quarter of a mile or more.

9. Expressway—A divided arterial highway for through traffic with partial control of access and generally with grade separations at major intersections.

10. Freeway—An expressway with full control of access.

11. Gore—The area immediately beyond the bifurcation of two roadways, bounded by the edges of those roadways.

12. Highway (or Street)—The entire width between the boundary lines of every way, publicly maintained, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

13. Highway, Arterial—Any U.S. or State numbered route, controlled access highway, or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways.

14. Highway, Controlled-Access—Every highway, street, or roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street, or roadway.

15. Highway, Divided—A highway with separate roadways for traffic in opposite directions.

16. Highway, Major—The roadway approach or approaches at an intersection normally carrying the major volume of vehicular traffic.

17. Highway, Minor—The roadway approach or approaches at an intersection normally carrying the minor volume of vehicular traffic.

18. Highway, Through—A highway or portion thereof on which vehicular traffic is given preferential right-of-way, and at the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to yield the right-of-way to vehicles on such through highway in obedience to a stop sign, yield sign, or other official traffic control device, when such signs or devices are erected as provided by law.

19. Intersection—

(a) The area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict.

(b) Where a highway includes two roadways (30) feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting highway also includes two roadways (30) feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection.

(c) The junction of an alley with a street or highway shall not constitute an intersection.

20. Median—The portion of a divided highway separating the traveled ways for traffic in opposite direction.

21. No Passing Zone—A section of highway designated by the public body or official having jurisdiction as one where overtaking and passing or driving to the left of the roadway would be especially hazardous.

22. Official Traffic Control Devices (or Traffic Control Devices)—All traffic signs, highway traffic signals, traffic markings, and other devices erected or placed on or adjacent to a highway or street by authority of the public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

23. Pavement—That part of a roadway having a constructed surface for the facilitation of vehicular traffic.

24. Pedestrian—Any person afoot.

25. Ramp—An inclined section of way over which traffic passes for the primary purpose of ascending or descending so as to make connections with other ways. Also, an interconnecting roadway of a traffic interchange, or any connection between highway facilities of different levels, on which vehicles may enter or leave a designated highway.

26. Right-of-Way—The right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed and proximity as to give rise to danger of collision unless one grants precedence to the other.

27. Roadway—That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway," as used herein, refers to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

28. Shoulder—The portion of the roadway contiguous with the traveled way for accommodations of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support of base and surface courses.

29. Sidewalk—That portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral line of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians.

30. Street—(See highway).

31. Traffic—Pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, street-cars, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for purposes of travel.

32. Traffic Lane—A strip of roadway intended to accommodate the forward movement of a single line of vehicles.

33. Vehicle—Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

8A-3 Definitions Relating to Signs

1. Guide Sign—A sign used to show route designations, destinations, directions, distances, services, points of interest, and other geographical or cultural information.

2. Lane-Use Sign—A sign indicating regulations governing use of specific lanes.

3. Legend—Word messages or symbols used on signs to cover specific meanings.

4. Public Parking Area (or Facility)—A parking facility available for use by the general public, with or without payment of a fee.

5. Regulatory Sign—A sign used to give notice of traffic laws or regulations.

6. Traffic Sign (or Sign)—A device mounted on a fixed or portable support whereby a specific message is conveyed by means of words or symbols placed or erected for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

7. Warning Sign—A sign used to give notice of conditions on, or adjacent to, a highway or street that are potentially hazardous to traffic operations.

8A-4 Definitions Relating to Markings

1. Barrier Line—A line which, when placed parallel to a center or lane line, or to another barrier line, indicates that all traffic must not cross the line for purposes of overtaking and passing.

2. Center Line—A line indicating the division of the roadway between traffic traveling in opposite directions.

3. Channelizing Line—A line which directs traffic and indicates that traffic should not cross but may proceed on either side.

4. Delineator—A light-reflecting device mounted at the side of the roadway, in series with others, to indicate the alignment of the roadway.

5. Edge Line—A line which indicates the edge of the roadway.

6. Lane Line—A line separating two lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

7. Object Markings—Markings intended for use on obstructions within or adjacent to the roadway.

8. Pavement Markings—Markings set into the surface of, applied upon, or attached to the pavement.

9. Stop Line (or Limit Line)—A line which indicates where vehicles should stop when directed by a traffic officer or traffic control device.

10. Traffic Markings (or Markings)—All lines, patterns, words, colors, or other devices, except signs and power-operated traffic control devices, set into the surface of, applied upon, or attached to the pavement or curbing or to objects within or adjacent to the roadway, placed for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

8A-5 Definitions Relating to Signals

1. Back-Plates—A strip of thin material extending outward parallel to the signal face on all sides of a signal housing to provide suitable background for the signal indications.

2. Controller—A complete electrical mechanism mounted in a cabinet for controlling the operation of a traffic control signal.

3. Detector—A device by which vehicles, streetcars, trolley buses, or pedestrians are enabled to register their presence with a traffic-actuated controller.

4. Highway Traffic Signal—Any power-operated traffic-control device, except a sign or a barricade warning light, or steady burning electric lamps, by which traffic is warned or is directed to take some specific action.

5. Interval—Any one of the several divisions of the time cycle during which signal indications do not change.

6. Lane-Use Control Signal—A highway traffic signal which is erected to control the direction of vehicular traffic movement in an individual lane.

7. Major Street—The roadway approach or approaches at an intersection normally carrying the major volume of vehicular traffic.

8. Minor Street—The roadway approach or approaches at an intersection normally carrying the minor volume of vehicular traffic.

9. Optical Unit—An assembly of a lens, reflector, light source, and other components if required, with the necessary supporting parts to be used for providing a signal indication.

10. Pedestrian Detector—A detector, usually of the push-button type, installed near the roadway capable of being operated by hand.

11. Pedestrian Signal—A traffic control signal which is erected for the exclusive purpose of directing pedestrian traffic at signalized locations.

12. **Pedestrian Signal Indication**—The illumination of a pedestrian signal lens or equivalent device.

13. **Pretimed Signal**—A type of traffic control signal which operates on predetermined scheduled time cycles and intervals.

14. **Signal Face**—That part of a traffic control signal provided for controlling one or more traffic movements in a single direction. Turning indications may be included in a signal face.

15. **Signal Head**—An assembly containing one or more signal faces.

16. **Signal Indication**—The illumination of a traffic control signal lens or equivalent device.

17. **Signal Installation**—All of the equipment and material involved in the control of traffic at one intersection by a traffic control signal.

18. **Signal Lens**—That part of the optical unit which redirects the light coming directly from the light source and its reflector, if any.

19. **Signal Support**—The physical means whereby a signal head is supported in a particular location.

20. **Signal System**—Two or more signal installations operating in coordination.

21. **Time Cycle**—The time period required for one complete sequence of signal indications.

22. **Traffic-Actuated Signal**—A type of traffic control signal in which the intervals are varied in accordance with the demands of traffic as registered by the actuation of detectors.

23. **Traffic Control Signal (Traffic Signal)**—A type of highway traffic signal, manually, electrically, or mechanically operated by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed.

24. **Traffic Phase**—A part of the time cycle allocated to any traffic movement receiving the right-of-way or to any combination of traffic movements receiving the right-of-way simultaneously during one or more intervals.

25. **Train-Approach Signal**—A highway traffic signal which indicates to highway traffic, the approach and passage of railroad trains at a railroad-highway grade crossing.

26. **Vehicular Phase**—A traffic phase allocated to all traffic except pedestrians.

8A-6 Definitions Relation to Islands

1. **Approach End**—An end of an island or area between roadways which faces approaching traffic passing to one or both sides.

2. **Buffer**—A structure at the approach end of a safety zone designed to deflect or stop any vehicle which collides with it.

3. Island—(Traffic Island)—An area within a roadway from which vehicular traffic is intended to be excluded, together with any area at the approach thereto occupied by warning devices.

4. Island, Channelizing—A traffic island located in a roadway area to control and direct specific movements of traffic to definite channels.

5. Island, Divisional—A traffic island used to separate traffic moving in the same or opposite directions.

6. Island, Pedestrian Refuge—An island designed for the use and protection of pedestrians.

7. Raised Bars—A series of bars extending above the normal pavement surface to make any wheel encroachment obvious to a vehicle operator without loss of control of the vehicle.

8. Button—A rounded object extending above the normal pavement surface for the purpose of channelizing traffic movement.

8A-7 Definitions Relating to Construction and Maintenance Traffic Controls

1. Barricade—A portable or fixed barrier having object markings, used to close all or a portion of the right-of-way to vehicular traffic.

2. Barricade Warning Light—A portable, power-operated, lens directed, enclosed light used in either the steady burn or flashing mode to mark obstructions or hazards in construction and maintenance work areas.

3. Steady Burning Electric Lamps—A series of low wattage, yellow electric lamps used to mark obstructions or hazards in construction and maintenance work areas.

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