



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

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TRANSPORTATION DESIGN BULLETIN 20-11

DATE: September 25, 2020

TO: County Director of Capital Programs Department,
County Manager of Construction Services,
Division Director of Transportation Maintenance,
County Project Managers and Project Engineers of Record

FROM: County Engineer,
County Director of Engineering & Operations Department,
County Director of Technical Services Division,
County Manager of Transportation Services Section

COPIES: County Director of Geospatial & Land Acquisition Services Department

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ACCELERATION LANES AT RIGHT TURN MOVEMENTS

This bulletin announces the elimination of acceleration lanes for right turn movements at intersections and driveways.

REQUIREMENTS

Right turn acceleration lanes at intersections and driveways will not be allowed. A right turning maneuver must turn directly onto the receiving through lane.

BACKGROUND

An acceleration lane provides an opportunity for vehicles to complete a right turn unimpeded by conflicting vehicles and then accelerate parallel to the crossing traffic prior to merge. The use of a right turn acceleration lane does not provide a safe condition for pedestrians at an intersection. Design practices are encouraged to lower turning speeds and improve drivers view of pedestrians waiting to cross.

Furthermore, the driver of a vehicle performing a right turn acceleration will have difficulty seeing the approaching vehicles. The driver must turn his head almost 180 degrees to view the approaching vehicles, creating an unsafe condition. This situation is exacerbated for older drivers.

To avoid these safety concerns, the County will not allow an intersection or driveway design that provides an acceleration lane for a right turn maneuver. These safety concerns are documented as recorded crashes.

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IMPLEMENTATION

Effective Immediately.

CONTACT

Please use the email link below to address any questions or comments in reference to this Design Bulletin:

[PW-Standards Inquiry](#)

Recommended / Date:

Approved / Effective Date:

Leland Dicus, Professional Engineer
Technical Services Division Director

Michael J. Williams, Professional Engineer
County Engineer