

# Install a Stop Line

*A transverse pavement marking applied to the approach lane of a stop-controlled intersection to indicate where the motorist should stop.*



Source: VHB

A 12-inch stop line is used to supplement the STOP sign at this residential intersection.



Source: Lee Engineering, LLC

This 24-inch stop line has been correctly installed at least 4 feet in advance of the marked crosswalk.

## Targeted Crash Types

- Right-angle
- Pedestrian

## Problems Addressed

- Inadequate motorist guidance
- Vehicle conflicts with non-motorists
- Non-compliance with intersection traffic control devices

## Conditions Addressed

- Crash history or observed conflicts related to STOP (R1-1) sign violations.
- Citation history of noncompliance at STOP signs.
- Poor driver decision-making related to gaps in traffic due to poor vehicle placement at STOP signs (i.e., not pulling ahead far enough).

## Considerations

- Stopping sight distance should be considered when determining the location of the stop line.
- Stop lines should be placed at least 4 feet in advance of the nearest crosswalk line at stop-controlled approaches. In the absence of a marked crosswalk, the stop line should not be placed less than 4 feet or more than 30 feet from the nearest edge of the intersecting traveled way.
- Stop lines shall be solid and white, extend across the subject approach lanes, and should be 12 to 24 inches wide.

## Industry Standard

*MUTCD*  
[Section 3B.16: Stop and Yield Lines](#)

## Other Resources

[Low-Cost Safety Enhancements for Stop-Controlled and Signalized Intersections, FHWA](#)  
[Intersection Safety: A Manual for Local Rural Road Owners, FHWA](#)  
[South Carolina Case Study: Systematic Intersection Improvements, FHWA](#)  
[NCHRP 562 & TCRP 112: Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Intersections](#)

## Select Examples

[Hubbard Ave. & Park St., Middleton, WI](#)  
[1st St. & Elliott Ave. N., Wenatchee, WA](#)  
[26th St. & Pacific Ave., Virginia Beach, VA](#)

