Unsignalized Intersection Improvement Guide



A Movement Prohibition sign prohibits left turns during peak hours of traffic.



A combination of pavement markings reading "RIGHT TURN ONLY" and a Movement Prohibition sign prohibits left turns at this intersection.



This overhead Movement Prohibition sign prohibits left turns during the morning and evening weekday peak hours.



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Prohibit Turn Movements Using Signs

Installation of one or more signs—and possibly pavement markings—to prohibit certain movements at the intersection.

Targeted Crash Types

- Right-angle
- Opposing left turn
- Rear-end (major road)

Problems Addressed

- Excessive intersection conflicts
- Poor operational performance
- Misjudgment of gaps

Conditions Addressed

- Crash history or observed conflicts related to particular turning maneuvers (e.g., left turns), possibly at particular times (e.g., morning peak hour) and days (e.g., Monday – Friday).
- Insufficient gaps in major road traffic for left turns from major or minor road or through movements from minor road.
- Insufficient sight distance or lack of appropriate left-turn storage area to safely make a turning movement.
- Impractical to improve conditions with other treatments such as improved sight distance or turn lanes.

Considerations

- Using permanently-mounted supplementary legends, the turn prohibition may be applied such that it is in effect only during certain times and days of the week.
- Local business owners and residents may object if the restriction affects access to their property. The affected property owners should be notified prior to any restriction of their access. Restrictions should be justified to address a crash or other safety or operational problem.
- With no physical barrier or enforcement, violations to the turn restriction may occur.
- Drivers may take unanticipated alternative routes through private property or minor local streets to avoid the restriction(s).

Industry Standard

MUTCD

Section 2B.18: Movement Prohibition Signs (R3-1 through R3-4, R3-18, and R3-27)

Section 2B.37: DO NOT ENTER sign (R5-1)

Section 3B.20: Pavement Word, Symbol, and Arrow Markings

Other Resources

NCHRP 500 Volume 5: A Guide for Addressing Unsignalized Intersections Left Turn Prohibitions, PEDSAFE

Select Examples

Nevada Rd. & Ramona Expwy., Perris, CA University Dr. & Oxford Dr., Durham, NC Atlantic Ave. & Ingram Dr., Raleigh, NC