

Install Dotted Line Pavement Markings

Application of broken line markings to delineate the major road through lane across an intersection or median opening.



Source: South Carolina DOT

The dotted edge line continues through the intersection along this tangent section of roadway.



Source: VHB

This dotted edge line provides valuable delineation across an approach that intersects the major road on the outside of a horizontal curve.

Targeted Crash Types

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

Problems Addressed

- Inadequate motorist guidance

Conditions Addressed

- Vehicles on minor road approaches are not positioning themselves appropriately before entering the major road.
- Vehicles in the median of a divided roadway are encroaching upon the major road through lane.

Considerations

- Dotted pavement marking color should match the color of the lane line it is extending.
- In addition to enhancing motorist guidance, this treatment can also (1) raise awareness of the intersection among drivers on both the major and minor road approaches and (2) indicate to minor road drivers exactly how far they can pull their vehicles forward without encroaching upon the major road through lane.
- A dotted line extension may encourage drivers to pull further ahead on the side street approach and inadvertently lead them to disregard pedestrians and bicyclists who may be present.
- May be particularly applicable at intersections within horizontal curves.

Industry Standard

MUTCD

[Section 3A.06: Functions, Widths, and Patterns of Longitudinal Pavement Markings \(Dotted lines\)](#)

[Section 3B.08: Extensions through Intersections or Interchanges](#)

Other Resources

[Innovative Operational Safety Improvements at Unsignalized Intersections, Florida DOT](#)

[NCHRP 500 Volume 5: A Guide for Addressing Unsignalized Intersections](#)

Select Examples

[Buffalo Rd. & Lake Wendell Rd., Wendell, NC](#)

[S. Main St. & Veterans St., Hollsopple, PA](#)

[Olanta Hwy. & N. Bethel Rd., Scranton, SC](#)

