



Install Pavement Word and/or Symbol Markings

Pavement markings placed at or in advance of the intersection for the purpose of supplementing existing signs to guide, warn, or regulate traffic. Markings that would apply to unsignalized intersections include: STOP, YIELD, RIGHT (LEFT) TURN ONLY messages; lane-use and wrong-way arrows; and STOP AHEAD, YIELD AHEAD, SCHOOL XING, PED XING messages.



Source: PennDOT

These STOP AHEAD pavement markings supplement the Stop Ahead sign.



Source: PennDOT

These pavement markings remind approaching drivers of the speed limit and notify them of the impending intersection.



Source: Lee Engineering, LLC

The STOP pavement marking along this approach adds emphasis to the stop condition.



Targeted Crash Types

- Right-angle
- Rear-end (major road)
- Rear-end (minor road)

Problems Addressed

- Inadequate visibility of intersection or intersection traffic control devices
- Inadequate motorist guidance

Conditions Addressed

- Poor visibility of the intersection from approaches, especially when caused by vegetation or other obstacles along the road (e.g., parked vehicles).
- Crash history or observed conflicts caused by lack of awareness of intersection.
- In areas where the roadside may be "cluttered" with posted signs.

Considerations

- Symbol messages are preferable to word messages.
- Letters or numerals should be six feet or more in height. The longitudinal space between words or symbols should be at least four times the height of the characters (low speed roads) and not more than 10 times the height of the characters.
- Text presented in multiple lines should be applied such that the first word of the message is the first word a driver encounters, and no more than three lines are recommended.
- Non-slick material should be used for markings with large surfaces.
- Message may not be visible during the winter.

Industry Standard

MUTCD

[Section 3B.20: Pavement Word, Symbol, and Arrow Markings](#)

Select Examples

[E. Chestnut St. & Line St., Mifflinburg, PA](#)

[Earlstown Rd. & Schempf Rd., Boalsburg, PA](#)

[Periwinkle Way & Dixie Beach Blvd., Sanibel, FL](#)

[NC 55 & NC 111, Seven Springs, NC](#)

Other Resources

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

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

[Low-Cost Safety Enhancements for Stop-Controlled and Signalized Intersections, FHWA](#)