

# Traffic Control Devices

## Use of Yellow Pavement Markings and Reflectors

**Note:** This discussion, created in May 2010, is primarily intended to discuss where yellow markings may be used on highways either directly on the roadway surface, curbs, or adjacent to the roadway as delineators indicating the roadway edge or to warn of abutments such as signs and utility poles.

### **New York state Vehicle and Traffic Law**

Available at

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?QUERYTYPE=LAWS+&QUERYDATA=@LLVAT+&LIST=LAW+&BROWSER=BROWSER+&TOKEN=38827907+&TARGET=VIEW>

**§ 155. Traffic infraction.** The violation of any provision of this chapter, except articles forty-seven and forty-eight [snowmobiles and vessels], or of any law, ordinance, order, rule or regulation regulating traffic which is not declared by this chapter or other law of this state to be a misdemeanor or a felony [is a traffic infraction]. . . .

**§ 1600 . Provisions of chapter uniform throughout state .** The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein and no local authority shall enact or enforce any local law, ordinance, order, rule or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized herein. No local authority shall enact or duplicate any provision of this chapter as a local law, ordinance, order, rule or regulation, except that any local authority authorized to supersede any provision of this chapter may enact any such provision in a modified or amended form.

**§ 1680. Department of transportation to maintain a manual of uniform traffic-control devices.** (a) The department of transportation shall maintain a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic-control devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and so far as practicable conform to nationally accepted standards. To the extent that the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (hereinafter referred to in this section as MUTCD), promulgated by the Federal Highway Administration pursuant to subpart F of part 655 of Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations [available at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/>] and subject to a public comment period under federal law, does not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and the provisions of other laws of the state, the National MUTCD shall constitute such state manual and specifications; provided, however, such manual and specifications may be modified by the commissioner of transportation by the

adoption of a supplement or supplements as such commissioner of transportation determines warranted and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the state administrative procedure act. The manual and its specifications is adopted as the state standard for traffic control devices on any street, highway, or bicycle path open to public travel. No person shall install or maintain in any area of private property used by the public any sign, signal, marking or other device intended to regulate, warn or guide traffic unless it conforms with the state manual and specifications maintained under this section [underlines added]. Unless otherwise provided for by the adoption of a supplement by the commissioner of transportation, the operational practices related to emergency incident responses provided in the manual shall apply to police officers and other emergency responders responding to an emergency only in so far as such officers or emergency responders deem compliance with the manual practicable.

**United States (federal) Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**

The federal MUTCD is no longer available in printed form. The official copy is published on-line at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/hdm/2009/>.

**Section 3A.02 Standardization of Application**

**01** Each standard marking shall be used only to convey the meaning prescribed for that marking in this Manual. When used for applications not described in this Manual, markings shall conform in all respects to the principles and standards set forth in this Manual.

**Section 3A.05 Colors.**

**03** When used, yellow markings for longitudinal lines shall delineate:

- The separation of traffic traveling in opposite directions,
- The left-hand edge of the roadways of divided highways and one-way streets or ramps, or
- The separation of two-way left-turn lanes and reversible lanes from other lanes.

**Section 3B.11 Raised Pavement Markers – General**

**01** The color of raised pavement markers under both daylight and nighttime conditions shall conform to the color of the marking for which they serve as a positioning guide, or for which they supplement or substitute.

**06** When used, internally illuminated raised pavement markers shall be steadily illuminated and shall not be flashed.

### **Section 3B.15 Transverse Markings**

**01** Transverse markings, which include shoulder markings, word and symbol markings, arrows, stop lines, yield lines, crosswalk lines, speed measurement markings, speed reduction markings, speed hump markings, parking space markings, and others, shall be white unless otherwise provided in this Manual.

### **Section 3B.19 Parking Space Markings**

**02** Parking space markings shall be white.

### **Section 3B.23 Curb Markings**

**07** Where curbs are marked for delineation or visibility purposes, the colors shall comply with the general principles of markings (see Section 3A.05).

### **Section 3F.02 Delineator Design**

**01** Delineators shall consist of retroreflective devices that are capable of clearly retroreflecting light under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 1,000 feet when illuminated by the high beams of standard automobile lights.

**02** Retroreflective elements for delineators shall have a minimum dimension of 3 inches.

### **Section 3F.03 Delineator Application**

**01** The color of delineators shall comply with the color of edge lines stipulated in [Section 3B.06](#).