

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Land or property, usually in a corridor, that is acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

BUFFER STRIP

The space provided between the back of curb and the sidewalk to place all lateral obstructions (landscaping, fire hydrants, street lights, parking meters, signal control boxes, signal, sign and utility poles, etc.) to ensure that the pedestrian access route is free of obstacles. When possible, signal poles and signal control boxes should be located behind the sidewalk to minimize conflict with intersection sight distance.

Width

Buffer strips shall be 4 feet wide to provide the lateral offset for the placement of conventional signs (36"x36" wide) for Posted Speeds **greater*** than 25 mph in accordance with the MUTCD, Part 2 (See Detail 1 below). Buffer strips 3 feet wide may be utilized to provide the lateral offset for the placement of smaller signs (24"x24" wide) for Posted Speeds 25 mph and less (See Detail 2 below). **However, a Design Waiver shall be submitted for buffer strips less than 4 feet for Posted Speeds greater than 25 mph and for buffer strips less than 3 feet for Posted Speeds 25 mph or less, See IIM-LD-227.** In unique situations where **no** buffer strip is provided, additional right of way shall be acquired behind the sidewalk for the placement of lateral obstructions (sign, utility poles, landscaping, fire hydrants, street lights, parking meters, signal control boxes, and signal poles, etc.) as well as proposed drainage structures. The Roadway Designer should coordinate with the Traffic Engineering Designer to determine the amount of right of way necessary.

The Roadway Designer has the option to meander sidewalk or construct a wider sidewalk to accommodate the minimum lateral offset for signs while maintaining a minimum clear width of 5 feet for the Pedestrian Access Route.

If trees are to be planted in the buffer strip it shall be a minimum 6 feet wide and the trees should be planted so that the center of the trees are 3 feet minimum behind the back of curb.

* Rev. 7/14