

Double (Dual) Left-Turn Lanes

Double (dual) left-turn lanes (DLTL's) shall be considered when left-turn demand exceeds 300 vph, and are desirable where peak left-turn movements exceed 350 vph. DLTL's require a protected (exclusive) signal phase, a minimum 4' raised concrete median separating opposing traffic, and a width of at least 30' on the acceptance lanes (see Figure 3-23). The length of storage should accommodate at least 1.5 times the expected vehicles making left turns per cycle based on peak 15-min. periods.

When DLTL's are required, a capacity analysis of the intersection shall be performed to determine what traffic controls are necessary (i.e. - signalization, separate phasing) in order to have this double left-turn lane function properly.

For addition information on Dual Left Turn Lanes see AASHTO "Green Book" Chapter 9, Section 9.7.3.

Continuous Left-Turn Lanes (Two Way in Either Direction)

Continuous two-way median left-turn lanes (C2WMLTL's) should be considered on low-speed arterial highways (25 to 45 MPH) with no heavy concentrations of left-turn traffic. C2WMLTL's also may be used where an arterial or major route must pass through a developed area having numerous street intersections and entrances, and where it is impractical to limit left turns. The minimum width for this application shall be 13 feet, which is an 11 foot lane plus 2 feet for a solid yellow line and a dotted yellow line on each side of the 11 foot lane.*

C2WMLTL's shall only be used with roadways having a maximum of 2 through lanes in each direction, and shall be shown in accordance with Figure 3-24.

Advantages are:

- Reduced travel time.
- Improved capacity.
- Flexibility of using as temporary detour during closure of through lane.
- Does not control or limit the number of left turns.
- Minimizes interference to through traffic lanes.
- Separates opposing traffic flows by one full lane.
- Public preference (both from drivers and owners of abutting properties.)
- Reduced accident frequency, particularly rear-end collisions.

Disadvantages:

- Poor visibility (corrected by using proper delineation)

* Rev. 7/15