

**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

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## 1.1 GENERAL

This section of the VDOT Traffic Engineering Design Manual presents the preferred methods used when applying pavement markings, pavement markers, object markers, and delineators. The goal is to provide appropriate pavement definition at all times through pavement marking and delineation. The primary functions of markings, markers, object markers and delineators are to:

- Control traffic in order to encourage safe and efficient operation
- Supplement regulatory, warning, and guide signs
- Independently identify certain regulatory or hazardous conditions

The major source of information for this section was derived from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications, and the VDOT Road and Bridge Standards. Users of the Traffic Engineering Design Manual should be completely familiar with the MUTCD requirements before attempting to apply its guidelines. Part 3 of the MUTCD defines the allowable limits, alternatives, and general standards for markings, markers, object markers and delineators. It is not the intent of this Manual to duplicate standards established in the above documents. However, some duplication of material is presented to provide the preferred practices as they relate to the referenced documents.

This Section includes information on the following:

- Types and use of materials
- General principles to be followed
- Design details including standards and specifications
- Specific use of markings, markers, object markers and delineation

## 1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following publications were used to develop this Section:

- A Policy on Geometric Design of Rural Highways, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Virginia Supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Road and Bridge Specifications, VDOT
- Road and Bridge Standards, VDOT
- Road Design Manual, VDOT
- Guide for Bicycle Facility Planning Manual, VDOT
- Traffic Engineering Memoranda, VDOT