

3. Pedestrian tunnels

- a. Pedestrian tunnels to separate pedestrian crossings from roadway traffic are being encouraged by some localities to improve pedestrian safety on high volume streets. The Subdivision Street Requirements provide criteria for VDOT acceptance of these pedestrian tunnels under certain conditions. All underpass structures intended for pedestrian use, whether they are accepted for maintenance as part of the roadway or accepted under the terms of an agreement should have the following characteristics:
 - (1) Have entrances visible from the side of the roadway above.
 - (2) Be aligned to the pedestrian corridor such that the interior of the tunnel is visible to pedestrians from a distance of not less than 25 feet and preferably for its entire length.
 - (3) If located at a school, be equipped with security gates so that school authorities may regulate the hours it is available for use.
- b. All underpass structures intended for acceptance of maintenance by the Department as an integral part of the roadway, even if some features are to remain the responsibility of local government, should also include the following:
 - (1) Have a grade not greater than 3%.
 - (2) Have a non-skid paved surface comparable to the finish of a sidewalk.
 - (3) Have continuous handrails.
 - (4) Have a clear height not less than 8 feet.
 - (5) Have a clear width, exclusive of any area used or reserved as a utility corridor, not less than 10 feet.
 - (6) Have security lights with explosion proof fixtures if the tunnel is more than 25 feet in length or if the tunnel is available for use after dark.
 - (7) Be accessible to persons with disabilities from sidewalks associated with the roadway above or, as an alternative, by a circuitous route.
 - (8) Pedestrian ramps should be provided at all pedestrian separation structures.