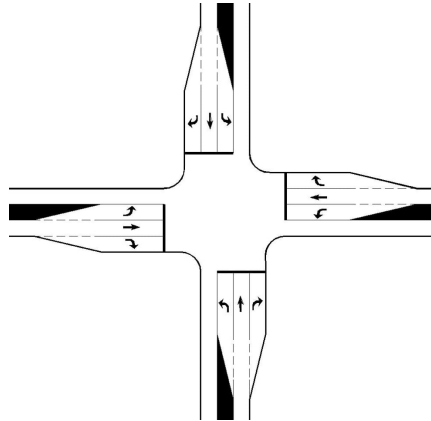




Term **Definition**

Channelization

At an intersection, channelization means that there are turn lanes that provide a dedicated lane to “channel” or direct turning vehicles away from the through lanes. This can help improve operations of the intersection.

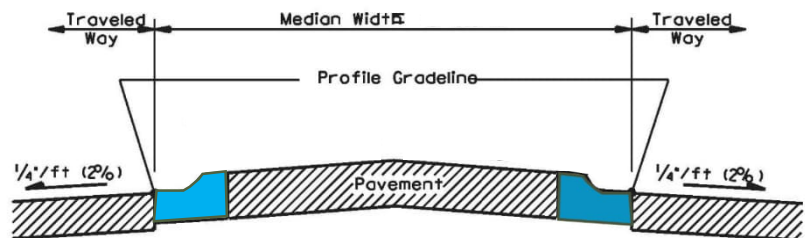


Safety Tier

Safety Tiers categorizes roadway segments and intersections based on their level of safety performance and opportunity for improvement, providing a rating for relative comparison. The Safety Tiers include a 5%, High, Medium, Low or Minimal designation. Safety Tiers allow transportation officials to understand relative performance of a location compared to similar types of roadways or intersections.

Raised Curb Median

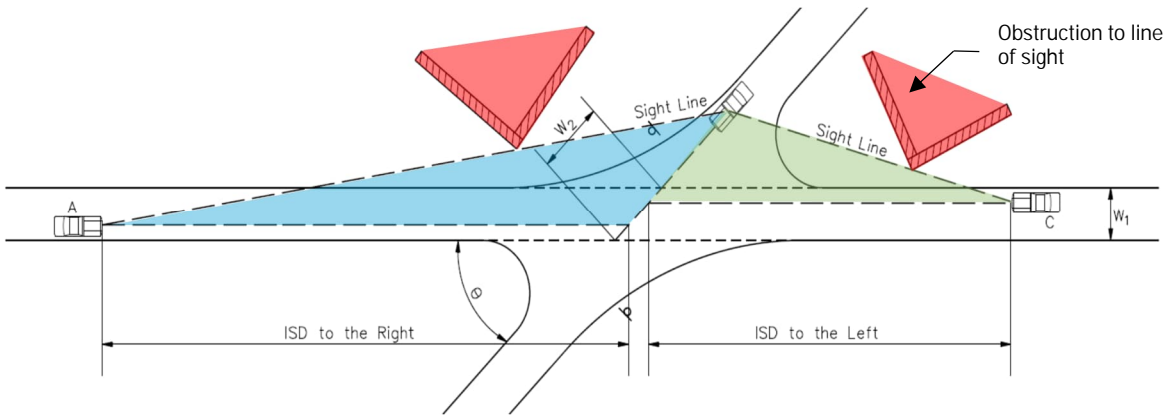
Raised curb medians have a raised curb that is at least 2” high separating it from the roadway. These are common in urban and suburban areas, with a desired speed limit of 40 mph to 45 mph. The benefits of having a raised curb median are seen in providing pedestrian refuge, providing a traffic calming effect meaning potentially lowered vehicle speeds, potential for landscaping, and promoting safe access management on and off the roadway. It can also provide improved drainage.



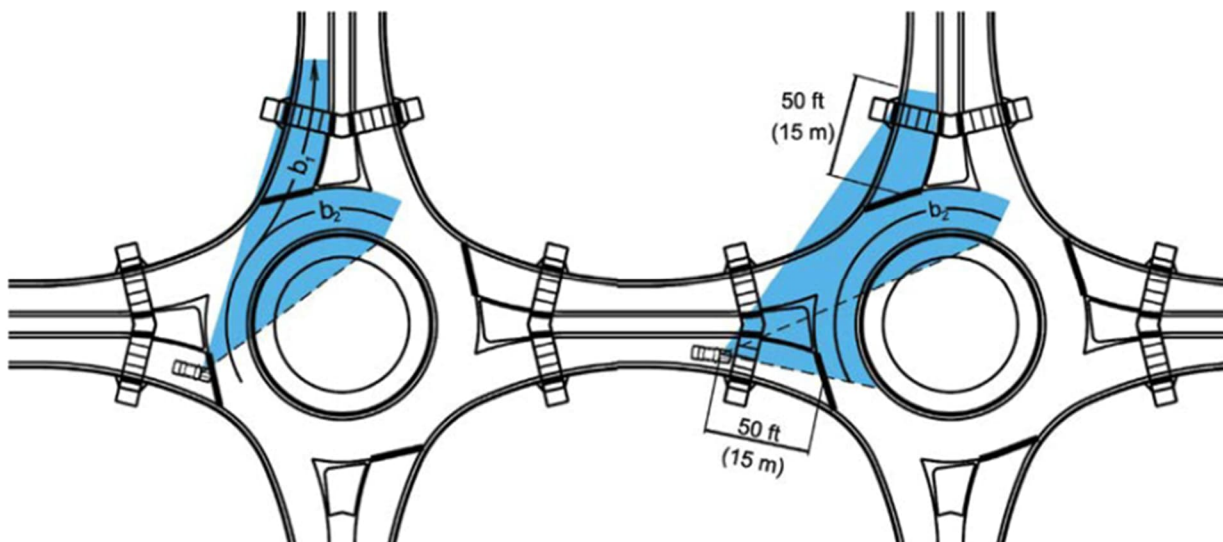


Term Definition

Intersection Sight Distance Intersection sight distance is typically defined as the distance a motorist can see approaching vehicles before their line of sight is blocked by an obstruction near the intersection. $ISD =$ Intersection Sight Distance.



Roundabout Sight Distance Sight distance at a roundabout refers to the driver's ability to see circulating traffic, pedestrians, and exit points. Adequate sight distance is essential for safe yield decisions, while excessive visibility across the central island is avoided to prevent high-speed entry.



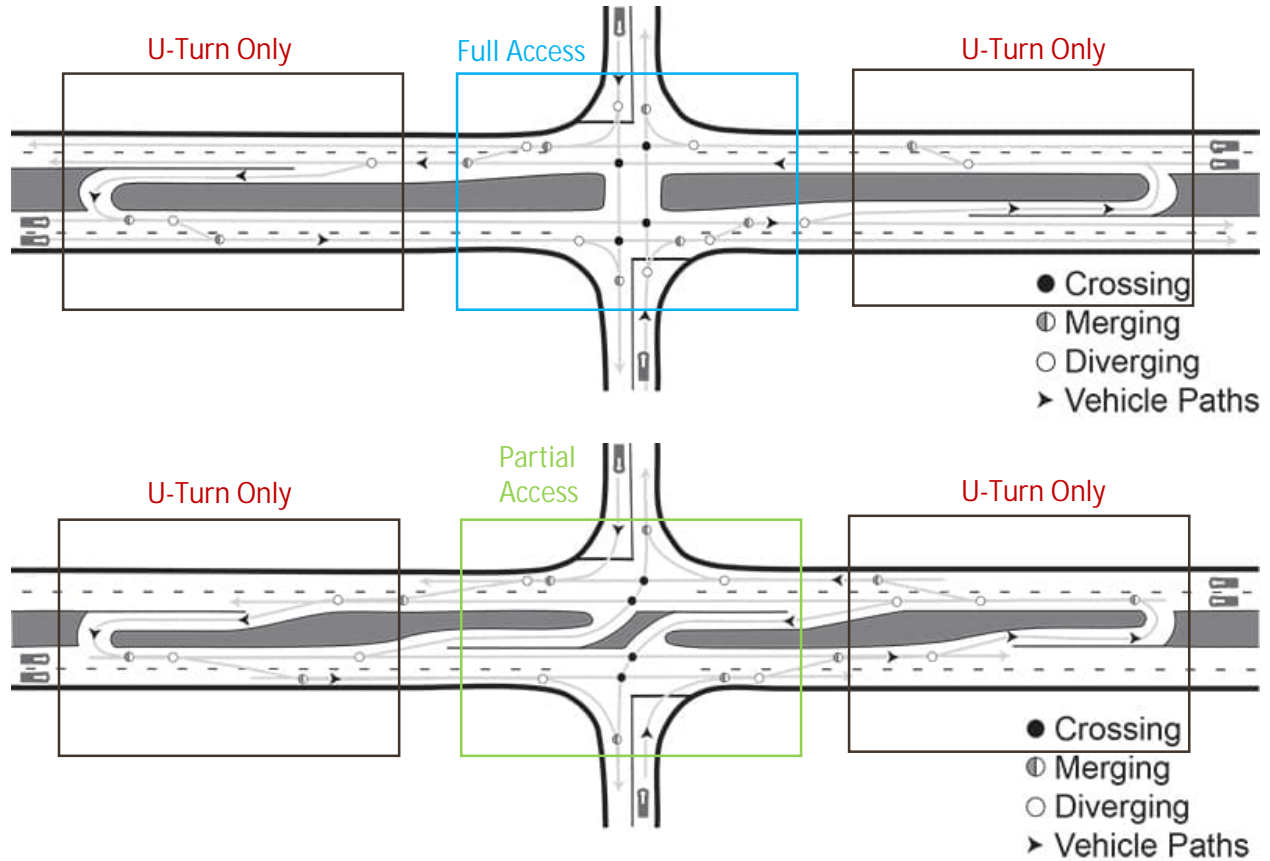
b_1 : Sight distance to vehicle entering the roundabout
 b_2 : sight distance to vehicle circulating the roundabout

Term

Definition

Access Control/Management

Access management refers to the regulation of intersections, driveways, and median openings to a roadway. Its objectives are to enable access to land uses while maintaining roadway safety and mobility through controlling access location, design, spacing, and operation.



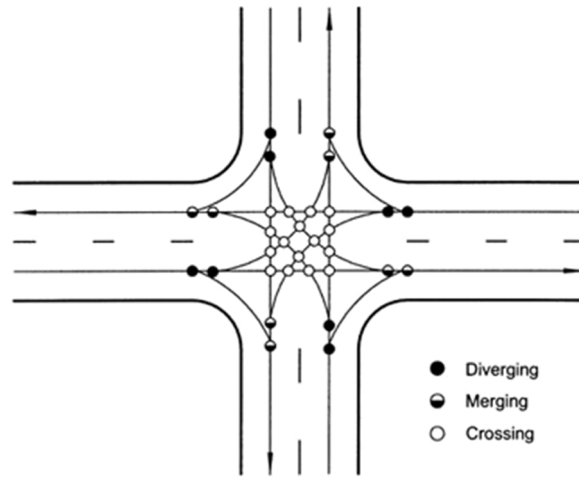


Term

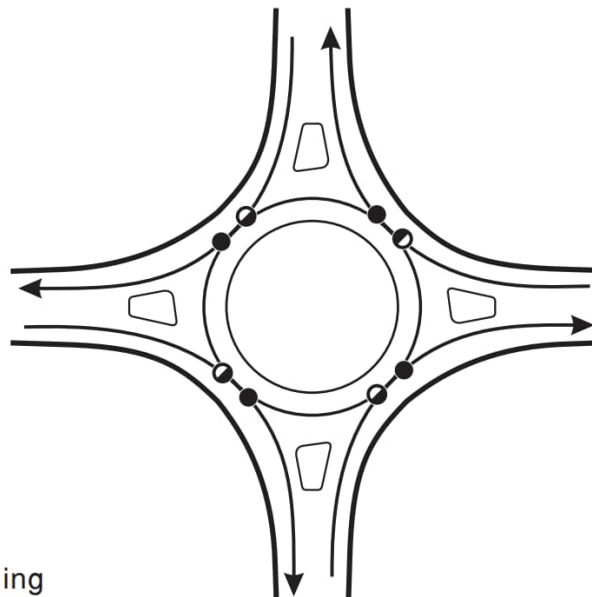
Definition

Conflict Points

A point in which a driver is crossing the path of another vehicle and has the potential for a crash or “conflict”. These conflict points can be minimized through access control. Fewer conflict points mean fewer opportunities for collisions. The number of conflict points for a standard full access intersection is 32.



The number of conflict points for a roundabout intersection is 8.



ing

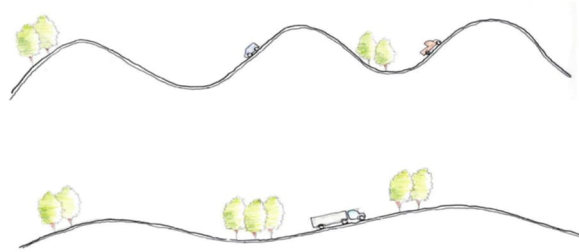


Term

Definition

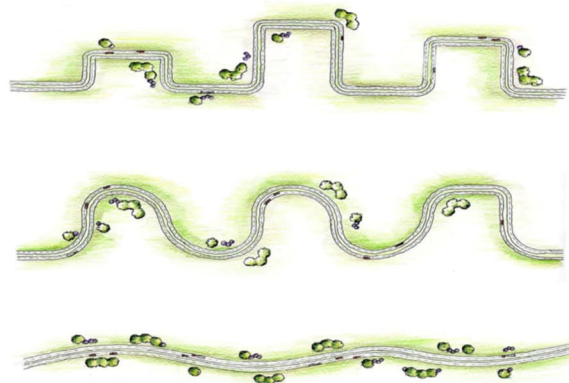
Vertical Alignment

The vertical alignment refers to the alignment of a roadway facility based on crest (hills) and sag (valleys) curves that vehicles must negotiate. Sight distance becomes a key component of vertical alignment.



Horizontal Alignment

In general terms, the horizontal alignment refers to the alignment of a roadway facility with respect to curves to the left and right that vehicles must negotiate. Based upon a given design speed, there is a minimum radius that a roadway alignment can be designed for before compromising safety.



Design Speed

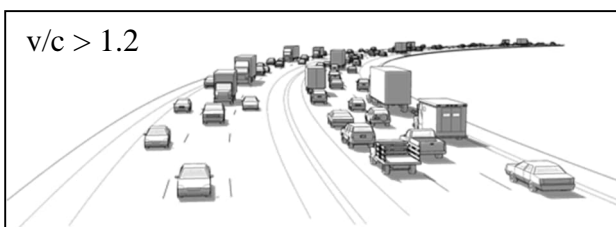
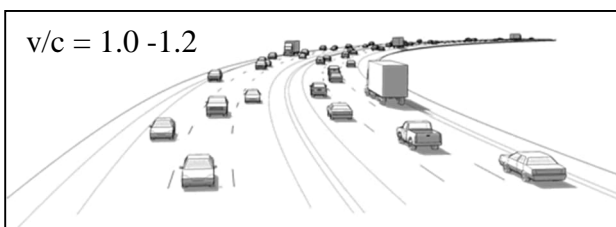
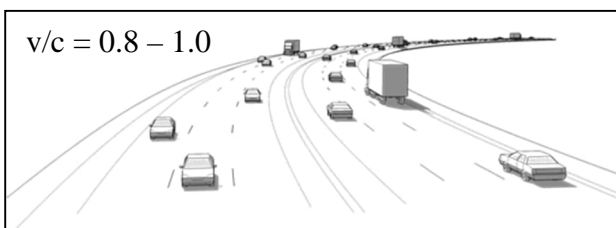
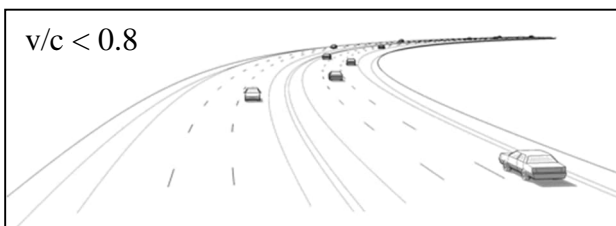
A roadway's design speed is the maximum speed that a motor vehicle can be safely operated on that road under optimum driving conditions. Design speed is not the same as posted speed. The posted speed of a roadway is typically lower than the design speed.

Term

Definition

Capacity

Capacity can be defined as the maximum number of vehicles which can reasonably be expected to traverse a point or uniform section of a road during a given time-period under prevailing roadway, traffic, and traffic control conditions. You will sometimes here the term “volume-to-capacity” or v/c ratio. This term refers to the measure of a roadway facilities’ efficiency.





Term	Definition
Capacity	The volume to capacity (v/c) ratio is a crucial factor in determining the Level of Service (LOS) for roadways and intersections. As the v/c ratio increases, the LOS typically decreases, indicating worsening traffic conditions. Specific v/c ratio thresholds correspond to different LOS grades. The LOS is graded from A to F, with A representing free-flow conditions and F indicating highly congested conditions. For rural arterial intersections, maintaining an LOS of C or better is generally desirable to ensure efficient traffic flow and safety.
Chicane	A chicane is a curve in a road, added by design rather than dictated by geography. Chicanes add extra turns and are used on roads and streets to slow traffic for safety.
Right-Of-Way	This is the land set aside for roads and other transportation needs. It includes the space needed to build, maintain, and use the road, as well as areas for sidewalks, drainage, and utilities. The ROW covers the entire width of the land from one property line to the opposite property line.



Term	Definition
Central Island	The central island is the raised area in the middle of a roundabout around which traffic circulates. It is designed to deflect vehicles to the right, reducing speeds and improving safety. Central islands may be landscaped or include decorative features but must be designed to preserve sight lines and accommodate large vehicles.
Truck Apron	A truck apron is a mountable, paved area surrounding the central island, typically constructed of textured concrete. It is designed to accommodate the off-tracking of large vehicles such as semi-trucks and farm equipment while discouraging use by passenger vehicles.
Circulatory Roadway	The circulatory roadway is the travel lane(s) that carry traffic counterclockwise around the central island of a roundabout. Vehicles entering the roundabout merge into the circulatory roadway and exit at their desired roadway.
Splitter Island	A splitter island is a raised or painted island on each roundabout approach that separates entering and exiting traffic. Splitter islands slow vehicles, help guide drivers into the correct path, provide pedestrian refuge, and reinforce the yield-at-entry condition.

