

DID YOU KNOW

Pavement markings have a variety of uses and meanings when installed on a roadway. Properly installed pavement markings provide drivers with important information that is crucial to navigating roadways.

Pavement markings are a type of traffic control device and, therefore, must meet the basic principles that govern their design and use. To be effective, pavement markings should meet 5 basic requirements:

- A. Fulfill a need;
- B. Command attention;
- C. Convey a clear, simple meaning;
- D. Command respect from road users; and
- E. Give driver adequate time for proper response.

Here are some frequently asked questions in regard to pavement markings:

- What kinds of pavement markings are there?
- What do the different colors mean?
- Why are there different patterns of markings?

If you have asked any of these questions, please look inside for answers!

ABOUT US

The Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (TSITE) is a professional organization of persons who are involved in the field of transportation and who share a common interest in improving the quality of the surface transportation system in Tennessee.

The mission of TSITE is the professional development and growth of traffic and transportation industry, promoting safe and efficient flow of people, goods, and services.

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TENNESSEE SECTION INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS



**ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION
IN TENNESSEE**



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

**TENNESSEE
SECTION of the
INSTITUTE of
TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERS**

WHAT ARE PAVEMENT MARKINGS?

Pavement markings are used to convey messages to roadway users. They indicate which part of the road to use, provide information about conditions ahead, and indicate where passing or lane changing is allowed.

There are 2 types of pavement markings.

1. Longitudinal Markings
2. Transverse Markings

Longitudinal markings run the length of the roadway. These define travel lanes, centerlines, bicycle lanes, and shoulders.

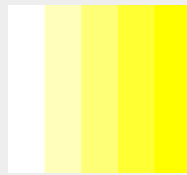


Transverse markings are generally placed perpendicular or across the flow of traffic. They help define important roadway features such as intersections and crosswalks. Examples include stop lines, turn arrows, and word markings.



WHAT DO THE COLORS MEAN?

Several colors are used for pavement markings. White and yellow are two of the most common.



Yellow lines are used to show two-way traffic (traffic flowing in opposite directions). White lines are used to show traffic flowing in the same direction. White lines can also be used to show a roadway's shoulder.

Most transverse markings are white and are used to emphasize a posted sign. Lane arrows are an example of transverse white pavement markings.



WHAT ABOUT AT NIGHT?

Pavement markings must be effective at all times of the day. Even if pavement markings look great during the day, a driver's view of the roadway at night is often limited by the vehicle's headlights. If the pavement markings are not reflective, they may be difficult, or even impossible, to see at night.

As a result, pavement markings that must be visible at night are required to be retroreflective unless ambient illumination assures that the markings are adequately visible. Most pavement markings use tiny glass beads to gather light from a vehicle's headlights and reflect it back to the driver.



WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS MEAN?

Different patterns of pavement markings mean different things. A double solid line indicates maximum restrictions and does not allow for drivers to cross over. A single solid line encourages a driver to stay in his/her lane, but does not restrict a driver from crossing over. As a result, a single yellow line cannot be used as a centerline marking.

Broken lines indicate permissive actions. Broken white lines show that each lane travels in the same direction and drivers are allowed to make lane changes. A dotted line provides guidance. Dotted lines typically are located at intersections. These lines will help guide drivers to make proper maneuvers in what may otherwise be difficult locations.

Broken Yellow	— — — —
Double Solid Yellow	=====
Solid Yellow	—————
Broken White	- - - - -
Double Solid White	=====
Solid White	—————
Dotted White