



Image source: Safe System Solutions Pty Ltd

FACTSHEET 9

CHANNELISATION

Channelisation is a terminology used for a group of interventions usually employed at intersections, such as the use of median islands, splitter islands and indented turning lanes. Channelisation can help to raise the alertness of drivers to select their travel path on approach to an intersection, while indented turning lanes can reduce the risk of conflicts with through traffic.

Application

It is good practice to provide a level of channelisation at all intersections. Warrants for the selection of channelised turn lane treatments are provided by Austroads¹.

Warrants are based directly on the measured safety performance of each turn type. Reference should be made to the commentary provided on the development of the warrants as part of treatment selection.

Implementation considerations

- The additional cost of providing a higher standard channelised turn lane treatment should be considered as part of design development, particularly if traffic volume may exceed warrant thresholds in the future.
- Design should consider selection of design and check vehicles, particularly if raised islands are proposed.
- The placement of raised islands should not create pinch points for cyclists.
- Separation between a channelised left turn lane and the adjacent through lane may be required to provide clear sight distance to both vehicle streams from vehicles waiting on the side road.

Safe system category

Supporting

Effectiveness

Moderate (20-40% CRF)

Target road user groups

Passenger Vehicles, Motorcyclists,
Heavy Vehicles, Cyclists

Target crash type

Intersection

Indicative cost

Highly variable.

Dependent on available road pavement and road widening requirements.

¹ Austroads, 2020, Road cross-section design for road stereotypes (including network safety plans) and a safe system (AP-R618-20). Sydney, NSW: Austroads.



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