

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
POLICY TE 11

MEDIAN DESIGN AND OPENING SPACING

GENERAL STATEMENT

A median opening is a constructed cross section between the traffic lanes of a highway whose directional through roadways are separated by a physical barrier. The opening may be located either at or between intersections of the roadway with other streets. This policy sets forth the minimum spacing and design at which such opening may be provided.

Experience with congestion and accidents indicates the need for a physical barrier between through roadways as traffic volumes increase and must be accommodated. Exits and entries involving left turns must be carefully considered to assure that the safety and capacity qualities of the basic design are not impaired.

GUIDELINES

Openings between intersections will be provided at:

1. Fire stations or other similar emergency conditions.
2. Business centers located between widely spaced intersections.
3. Where acute left-turn storage or "U" turn demands are created at intersections.
4. A minimum of 330/660 feet where side streets do not exist for a distance of 1,320 feet or more.
5. At locations in business districts that can safely accommodate left turn storage and show a demand that could adversely affect an adjacent intersection.

DESIGN

All openings shall be designed to include left-turn storage lanes for both directions of travel as determined by the Traffic Engineer. Length of left-turn storage lanes shall be determined from appropriate traffic data. Minimum length of storage shall be eighty feet; minimum length of reverse curve shall be as follows:

Length Limit of reverse curve	Radii	Angle	Width Left turn lane
• 76.802	150_	14°-50_	10 feet
• Public Works	Standard	B132	

Length of reverse curve greater than shown shall be determined by appropriate design speed criteria.