

# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENT EVALUATION GUIDELINE FOR UNCONTROLLED CROSSINGS

Traffic Safety Engineering Division

Updated: April 2018





# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

NDOT Traffic Safety Engineering Division developed this guidance for evaluating potential pedestrian safety improvement locations. The task to determine which crossing locations will benefit from pedestrian safety improvements can be a complex process, this guidance recommends using a systemic approach based on pedestrian generators. It also emphasizes the importance for engineering judgement while allowing for design flexibility and therefore providing support for the decision-making process.

The evaluation guideline consists of three sections:

#### 1. Data Collection

The section provides a check-off form for the individuals responsible for the field inventory. The items on the form will also be used in the following sections.

#### 2. Countermeasures Recommendations

The section provides a decision matrix to assist in data analysis and determining possible countermeasures for the studied locations.

#### **3. Improvement Prioritization**

The section helps determine the prioritization of Pedestrian Safety Improvements projects.

The evaluation also contains an appendix with all the design details for the safety improvements methods mentioned in the document.

#### 1. Data Collection

The following Pedestrian Safety Improvement Field Inventory Form can be used during the field reviews. Some key focus points to consider are:

- Pedestrian crash data
- Number of lanes
- Roadway width
- Median
- Stop sign/Signal/Uncontrolled
- Presence and type of lighting
- Current signage
- Traffic volumes
- Current crossing design
- Pedestrian generators
- Distance from nearest crosswalk
- Pedestrian ramp position/type
- Pedestrian land use generator categories

- Distance from intersection
- School zone influence
- Sight distance issues
- Nearest bus stop locations
- Roadway functional classification
- Sidewalk and pedestrian ramps availability
- Sidewalk and pedestrian ramps ADA compliance\*
- Sidewalk connectivity to bus stops
- Presence of multi-used path or bike lane
- Speed limit
- Presence of on-street parking
- Land use

\*Use the ADA GIS Feature Inventory to determine if sidewalks and ramps are ADA compliant: https://ndot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=0202ae8a996a4715b9da2fe1b2e2548e

#### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENT FIELD INVENTORY FORM FILL OUT THE SECTION BELOW REFORE FIELD INVENTORY

FILL OUT T	HE SECTION BELOW BEFORE	FIELD INVENTORY			
Location:					
City:	County:				
Speed Limit:	AADT major*:				
□ Urban	AADT major*:				
$\Box$ Rural	*Use the NDOT Traffic Records Information Applicat	ion (TRINA) to determine AADT.			
	SECTION BELOW DURING/AFT	ER FIELD INVENTORY			
<b>Existing Traffic Control:</b>					
$\Box$ 2-way stop	□ Signalized intersection	□ Roundabout			
$\Box$ 4-way stop	□ Non-signalized intersection □ Other:				
<b>Existing Crossing Condition:</b>	Existing Striping:				
□ Midblock crossing	□ Marked crosswalk				
$\Box$ Intersection crossing	□ Unmarked crosswalk				
$\Box$ Curb extensions	Crosswalk striping condition: $\Box$ Poo	or / 🗆 Fair / 🗆 Good			
□ Pedestrian refuge	Number of crosswalk per intersectio	n:			
Existing Crossing Signal & Lig	ghting:				
Pedestrian signage	Pedestrian signage $\Box$ RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon)				
□ Advance signage	□ PHB (Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon)				
□ Crosswalk lighting	Pedestrian signal				
Existing Roadway Condition (	Within 1/2 Miles of the Crossing):				
$\Box$ Bus only lane	Existing sidewalk: $\Box$ Yes / $\Box$ No	□ 2-lane undivided			
□ Bike lane	$\Box$ One side of the roadway	$\Box$ 2-lane with center left turn lane			
$\Box$ Shared bus-bike lane	□ Non-ADA compliant sidewalk*	$\Box$ 2-lane with raised median			
$\Box$ School zone	□ Non-ADA compliant ramp*	$\Box$ 4-lane undivided			
$\Box$ Bus stop	□ Directional ramp	$\Box$ 4-lane with center left turn lane			
$\Box$ On street parking		$\Box$ 4-lane with raised median			
□ Sight distance issue		$\Box$ 6-lane with center left turn lane			
□ Street lighting	□ Diagonal ramp	$\Box$ 6-lane with raised median			
□ Other:		Roadway width:			
*Use the ADA GIS Feature Inventory to determine if sidewalk and ramps are Non- ADA compliant. https://ndot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/ viewer.html?webmap= 0202ae8a996a4715b9da2fe1b2e2548e					

#### 2. Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures Recommendations

The following Uncontrolled Crosswalk Decision Matrix can be used to assist in data analysis and determining possible countermeasures. The matrix utilizes Vehicle ADT, Speed Limits (mph), and Number of Travel Lanes to help suggest possible countermeasures when implementing pedestrian safety.

The additional guidelines below will also need to be followed:

- When installing RRFBs, an overhead RRFB should be used if there are two or more lanes in each direction and a speed limit of 35 mph or higher.
- Enhanced crosswalk lighting should be added to all potential pedestrian safety improvement locations. While the design standard is focused for midblock locations, engineering judgment must be used when determining the best possible solution while designing intersection crosswalk lighting. NDOT has determined street light luminaire should be located so that it provides 20 vertical lux at the crosswalk. The specification states that LED luminaires should be utilizing 16,500 lumens or greater.
- Use Advanced RRFB's under the following conditions:
  - Limited sight distance to the crosswalk.
  - Three or more lanes in each direction on an arterial roadway with a 45 mph or greater posted speed limit.
  - Two lanes in each direction with an observed speed limit of 35 mph or greater consider an Advanced RRFB.
  - Where traffic signals are one half mile to one mile apart.
- Curb extensions can be considered if there is on-street parking and there is a need to improve pedestrian sight distances.

#### UNCONTROLLED CROSSWALK DECISION MATRIX

(Treatment to be applied only if evaluations of conditions and engineering judgement indicates that the treatment will provide a significant safety benefit)												
	Vehicle ADT < 9,000			Vehicle ADT > 9,000 to 12,000		Vehicle ADT > 12,000 to 15,000		Vehicle ADT > 15,000				
Roadway Type (Number of Travel Lanes and Median Type)	Posted Speed Limit											
	≤30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph	≤30 mph	35 mph	$\geq 40$ mph	≤30 mph	35 mph	$\geq 40$ mph	≤30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph
Two lanes	C/1	C/1	P/2	C/1	C/1	P/2	P/2	P/3	P/3	P/2	P/3	P/3
Three lanes	C/1	C/1	P/2	C/1	P/2	P/2	P/2	P/2	P/3	P/2	P/3	P/3
Multilane (four or more lanes with raised median)	C/1	C/2	P/2	C/2	P/2	P/3	P/2	P/2	P/3	P/3	P/3	P/3
Multilane (four or more lanes without raised median)	C/1	P/2	P/3	P/2	P/2	P/3	P/3	P/3	P/3	P/3	P/3	P/3

C - Candidate sites for marked crosswalks\*. An engineering study is required to determine whether a marked crosswalk will provide a significant safety benefit. A site review may be sufficient at some locations, while a more in-depth study of vehicle speeds, sight distance, vehicle mix, and other factors may be needed at other sites. See crossing treatment type number 1 and 2.

**P** - Possible increase in pedestrian crash risk if crosswalks alone are added without other pedestrian facility enhancements. If the evaluation determines that a crosswalk would provide a significant safety benefit, then crosswalk locations should be enhanced with other pedestrian crossing improvements such as those shown in Crossing Treatment Types Number 2 and 3.

# Minimum crosswalk treatments at uncontrolled locations should follow the requirements of the most current version of Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

#### Crossing Treatment Types:

1 - High visibility crosswalk striping, pedestrian refuge island, advanced yield lines, enhanced crosswalk lighting.

2 - Pedestrian refuge island, overhead pedestrian crossing signs, pedestrian activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) side and/or overhead mounted, pedestrian fencing, yield lines, parking removal between crosswalk and yield lines and enhanced crosswalk lighting. Consider using advanced pedestrian activated RRFBs.

3 - Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB), pedestrian activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) side and/or overhead mounted with advanced pedestrian activated RRFBs, pedestrian fencing, pedestrian signal, two-stage crossing, stop or yield lines, parking removal between crosswalk and yield lines, and enhanced crosswalk lighting should be considered. Installation of traffic signals cannot be considered unless traffic conditions meet warrant criteria specified in the MUTCD.

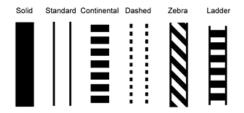
#### \*NRS-484A.065 "Crosswalk Defined"

Crosswalk means:

1. That part of a highway at an intersection within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traveled portions of highways; or

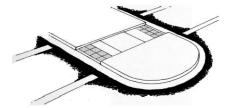
2. Any portion of a highway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other marking on the surface.

The following is a description of Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures that are found in the Uncontrolled Crosswalk Decision Matrix. The standard design details for the items below can be find in the appendix of this document.



### High Visibility Crosswalk Striping

The standard treatment for marked crosswalks at locations consists of retro-reflective pavement markings that delineate the pedestrian walking area.



#### Pedestrian Refuge Island

This area between opposing lanes of traffic allows pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time on wide streets. Median/Pedestrian Refuge Islands are one of the FHWA proven safety countermeasures.



#### Danish Offset

Danish Offset is the use of an offset at the middle of a multilane crossing to ensure pedestrians are facing the next half of traffic being crossed. In addition, it also provides a median refuge to pedestrians.



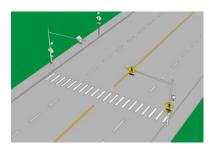
#### Enhanced Crosswalk Lighting

FHWA developed an information report on crosswalk lighting (FHWA-HRT-08-053: Informational Report on Lighting Design for Midblock Crosswalks) which provides information on lighting parameters and design criteria. NDOT utilizes an enhanced street light concept for uncontrolled crosswalk locations, which requires the lighting to have a 25-ft. maximum offset from the crosswalk and 16500 lumen fixtures.

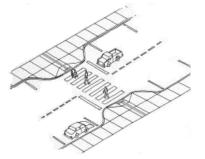


#### Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Small rectangular flashing lights are positioned with pedestrian crossing signs and are activated by pedestrians manually with a push button. Once activated, an irregular flashing pattern will flash for a predetermined amount of time to allow the pedestrian time to cross the roadway after vehicles have stopped.

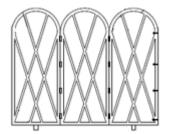


Overhead Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Utilized on roadways with more than one lane of travel and higher speeds to increase driver visibility.



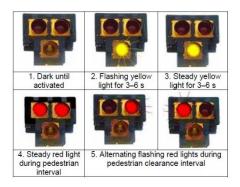
#### Curb Extensions

Curb extensions are used to extend the sidewalk into the street to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians. They also allow the pedestrian to be seen by approaching vehicles when other vehicles are parked and visually blocking the pedestrian from the roadway.



#### Pedestrian Fencing

Pedestrian fencing may be used within the median to restrict pedestrians from crossing the roadway, reducing conflict between motorized vehicles and pedestrians.



## Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)

A pedestrian activated warning device located on a mast arm over a midblock crossing location. In general, they should be used if gaps in traffic are not adequate to permit pedestrians to cross. Chapter 4F of the MUTCD contains information on when a PHB may be installed. The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is one of the FHWA proven safety countermeasures.

#### 3. Pedestrian Safety Improvement Prioritization

Following the data collection and analysis phase, the studied locations need to be evaluated to determine the prioritization of Pedestrian Safety Improvements compared to other locations. NDOT Traffic Safety Engineering developed a Pedestrian Safety Weighted Values Form to assign a weighted value to studied locations. The Pedestrian Safety Weighted Values are based on demographic, posted speed limits, roadway widths, and pedestrian generators.

The pedestrian generators are categorized as High/Medium/Low based on the number of pedestrians they generate. In each case, the distance from the generator to the studied location will also need to be take into consideration. NDOT Traffic Safety Engineering observed that the locations where most pedestrian crashes occur may not show high pedestrian counts, but at the locations where drivers are not expecting pedestrians. Therefore, such locations are being weighted at a higher value. If there are multiple generators within 1/8 mile, assign the value base on the distance most remote from the generator.

When the form is complete, sum up all the numbers to get the Pedestrian Safety Weighted Value for the studied location. This number will be used to compare to other studied areas to determine whether the studied location needs to be prioritized for pedestrian safety improvements.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WEIGHTED VALUES FORM						
Land Use Category	Sub-Category	Examples/Notes	Weight 1/8 Mile	Weight 1/4 Mile	Weight 1/2 Mile	
	University or College		15	10	5	
High Generator	Major Generator	Convention Center, Casino	15	10	5	
	Multi-family Living	Condominiums, Apartments, Mobile Home Park	10	5	3	
	School		5	3	1	
	Major Retail	Grocery Store, Convenient Store, Banks, etc.	5	3	1	
	Bars		5	3	1	
	Hotels	Motels	5	3	1	
Medium	Food Services	Restaurants, Fast Food, etc.	5	3	1	
Generator	Hospital	Clinics	5	3	1	
	Bus Stop		5	3	1	
	Senior Living	Hospice Care	5	3	1	
	Community Services	Community Centers, Libraries, Post Offices, Social Services, Churches, etc.	5	3	1	
	Minor Retail	General Retail, Offices, etc.	3	1	0	
Low Generator	Park		3	1	0	
	Trials	Bike Path, Multi-Use	3	1	0	
	Local		_	1		
Street	Collector			3		
Classification	Minor Arterial			4		
Classification	Principal Arterial			5		
	<u>&lt;30</u>		1			
	35+		3			
Speed Limit	40+			4		
	<u>&gt;</u> 45			5		
Sidewalk Status	Missing			20		
	Narrow	< 4 feet		10		
	Standard	4 - 6 feet		0		
	Wide	> 6 feet		-10		
	Yes On-street parking			0		
Parking	No On-street parking			5		
	Yes			0		
Curb	No			2		
Road Width	0 - 24 feet			0		
	24 - 36 feet		2			
	36 - 48 feet			4		
	48 - 60 feet			6		
	61+ feet			10		
Distance Between Major Intersections	0 - 500 feet			0		
	500 - 1000 feet			2		
	1000 - 2000 feet			4		
	2000+ feet			5		
	Roundabout			-4		
	Signal			-3		
Stop Control	4-way Stop Sign			-2		
	2-way Stop Sign		1	-1		
	2 may brop bight			1		

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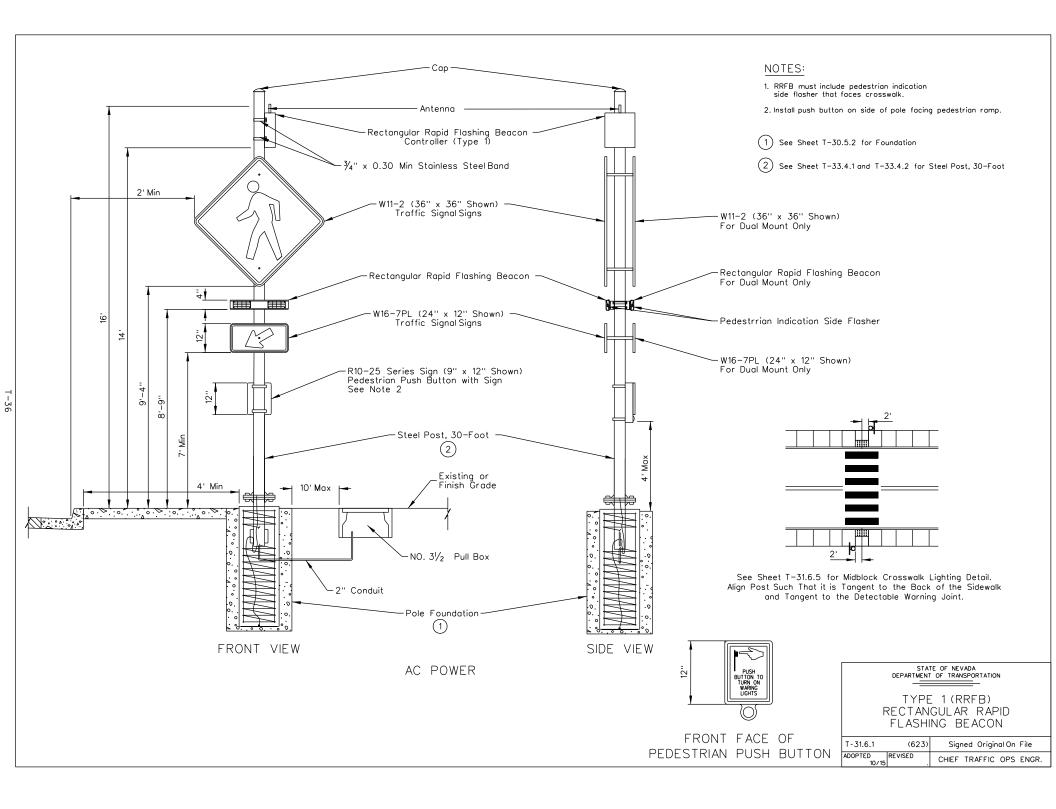
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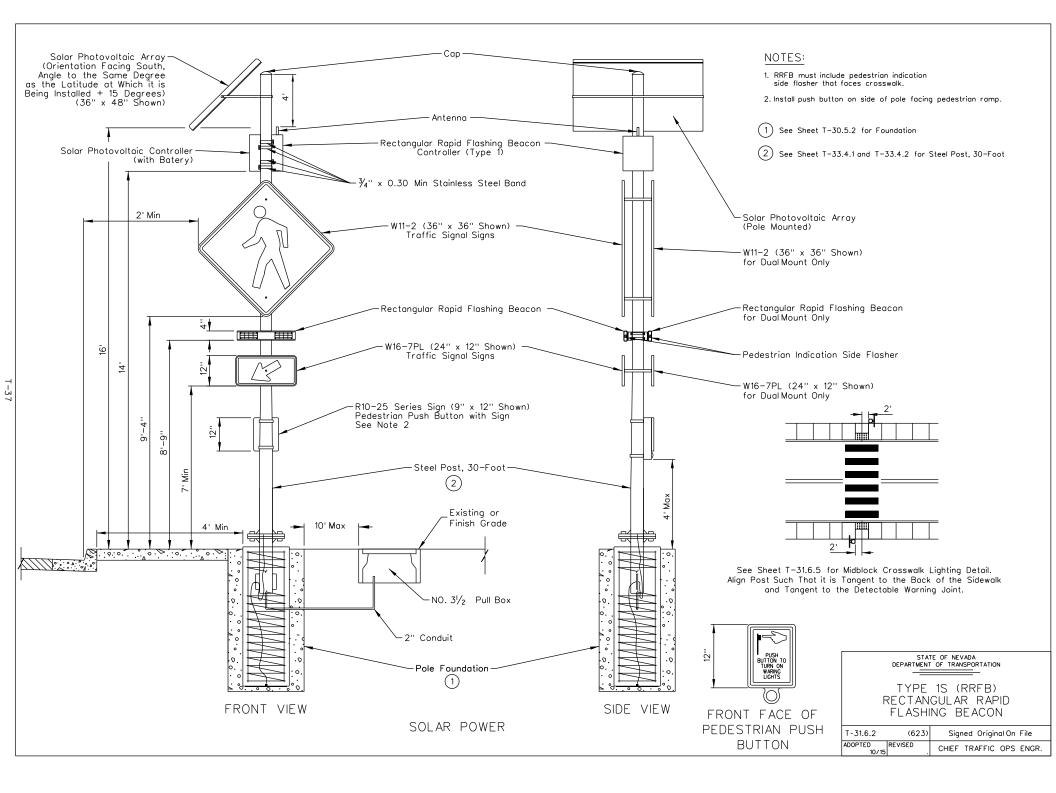
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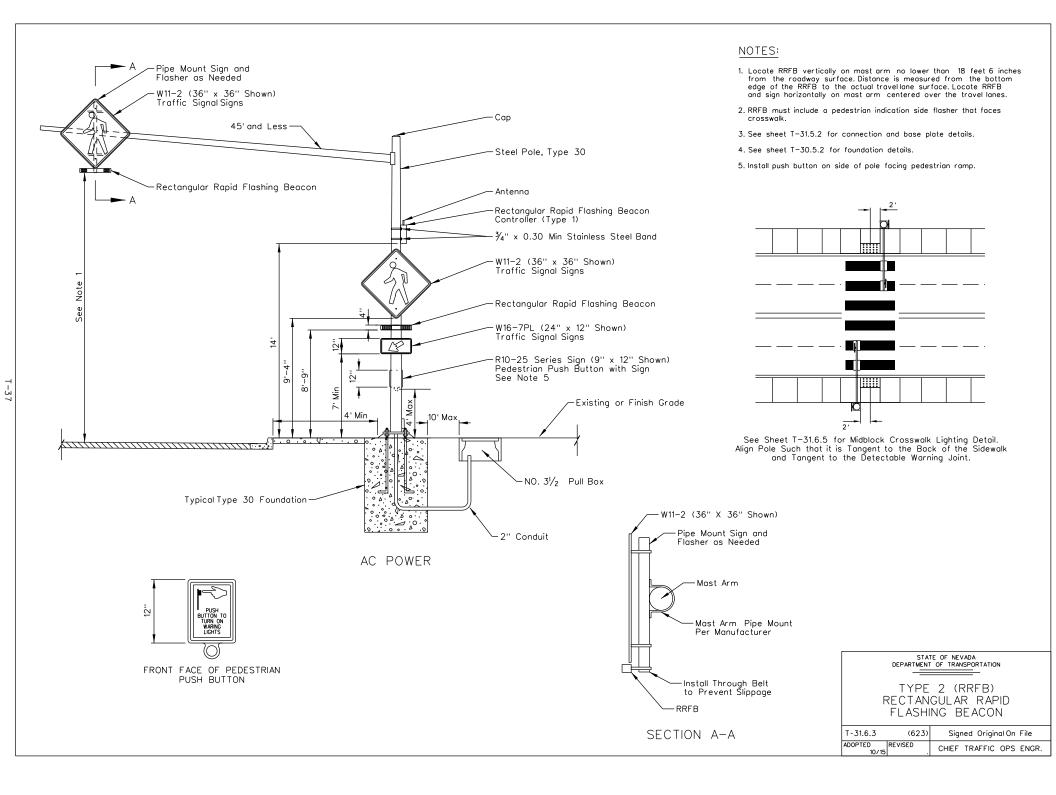
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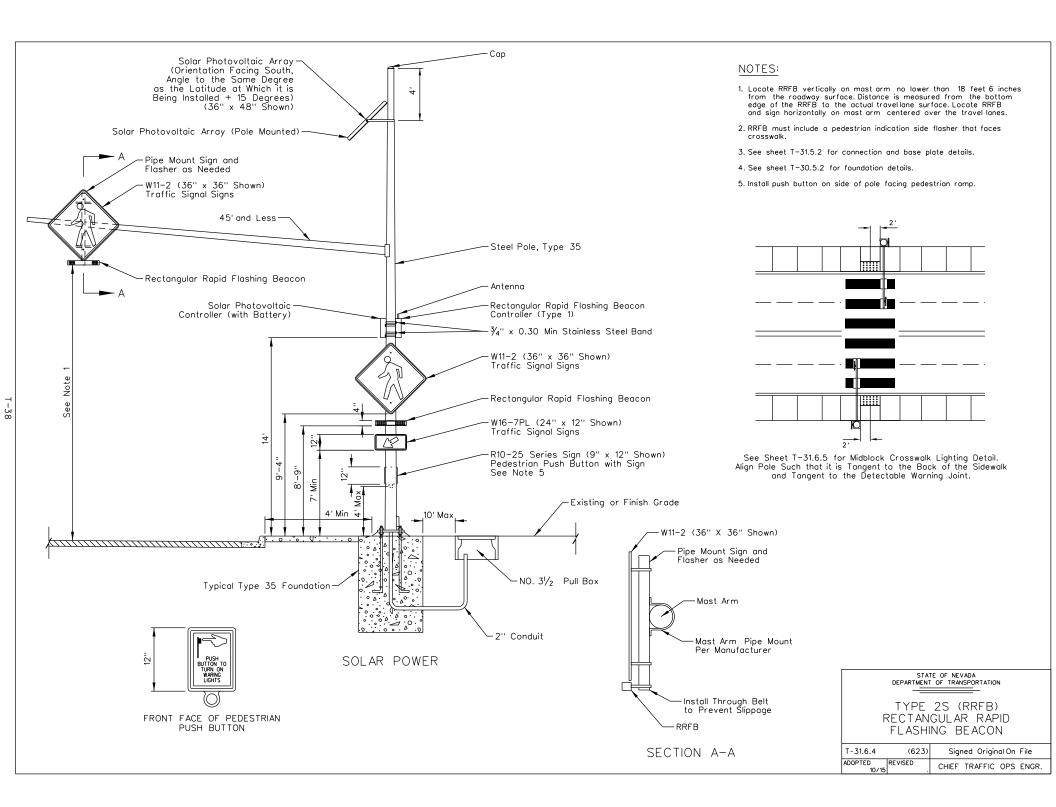
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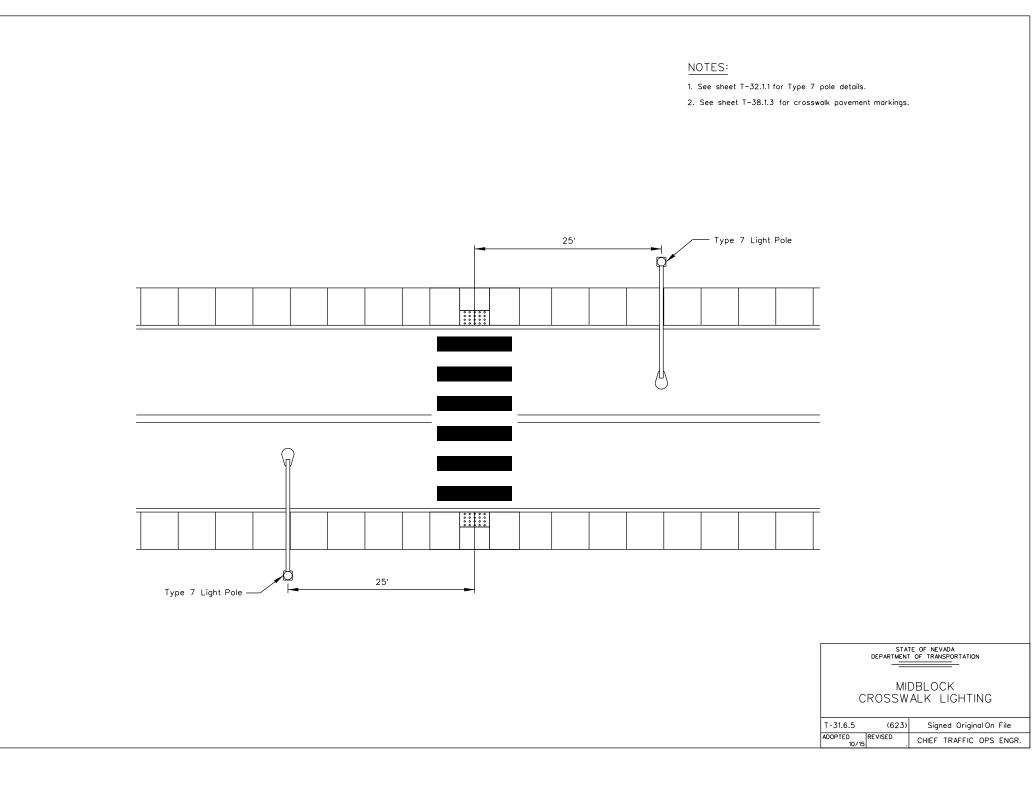
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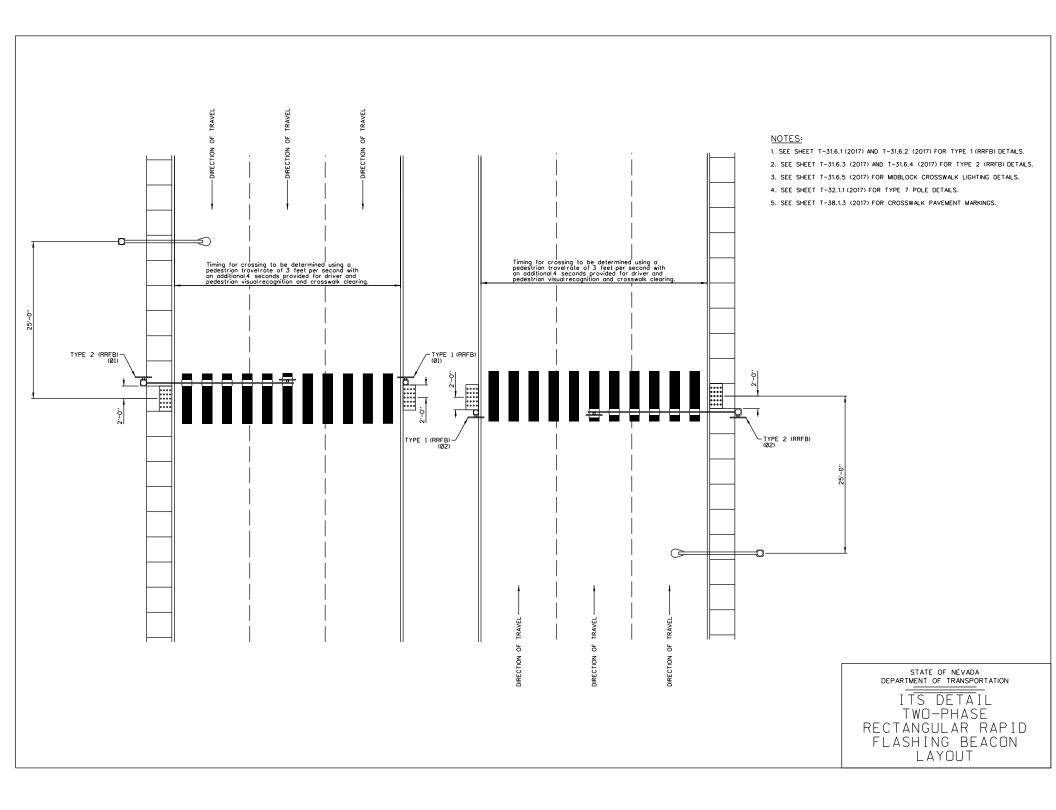


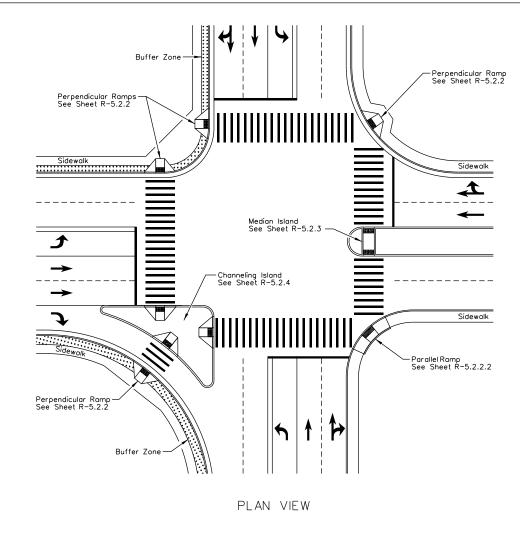












TABI	_E 1-	- TRA	NSITIC	DNS	
LENGTHS	FOR	8 3%	SIDE	SLOPES	

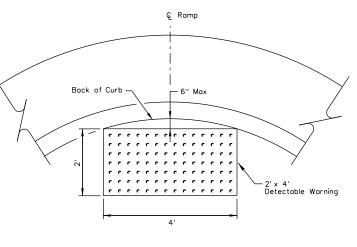
TABLE 2 - TRANSITIONS LENGTHS FOR 10% SIDE SLOPES

GRADE %	Α	В		GRADE %	Α	В
B TO A	MIN.	MIN.		B TO A	MIN.	MIN.
>-4.00	4'- 6"	15'		-6 TO -5.01	4'	12' - 6''
-4 TO -3.01	4'- 6''	12'		-5 TO -4.01	4'	10'
-3 TO -2.01	5'	9' - 6''		-4 TO -3.01	4'	8' - 6''
-2 TO -1.01	5' - 6''	8'		-3 TO -2.01 -2 TO -1.01	4' 4'- 6''	7' - 6'' 6' - 6''
-1 TO 1	7'	7'		-1 TO 1	4' - 6'' 5' - 6''	5' - 6''
1.01 TO 2	8'	5' - 6''		1.01 TO 2	6' - 6''	4' - 6''
2.01 TO 3	9' - 6''	5'		2.01 TO 3	7' - 6''	4'
	12'	5 4' - 6''		3.01 TO 4	8' - 6''	4'
3.01 TO 4				4.01 TO 5	10'	4'
> 4.00	15'	4' - 6''	]	5.01 TO 6	12' - 6''	4'

Tables apply to curb with 6" curb face. If curb has greater than a 6" curb face a special detail is required.

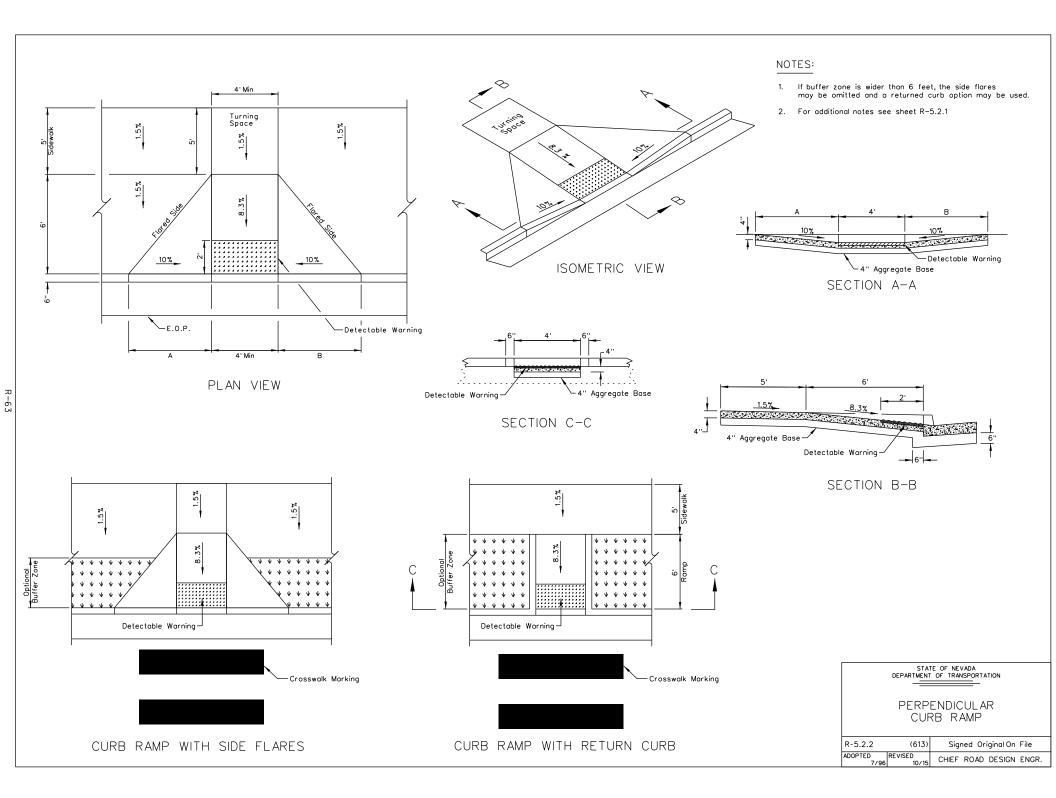
#### NOTES:

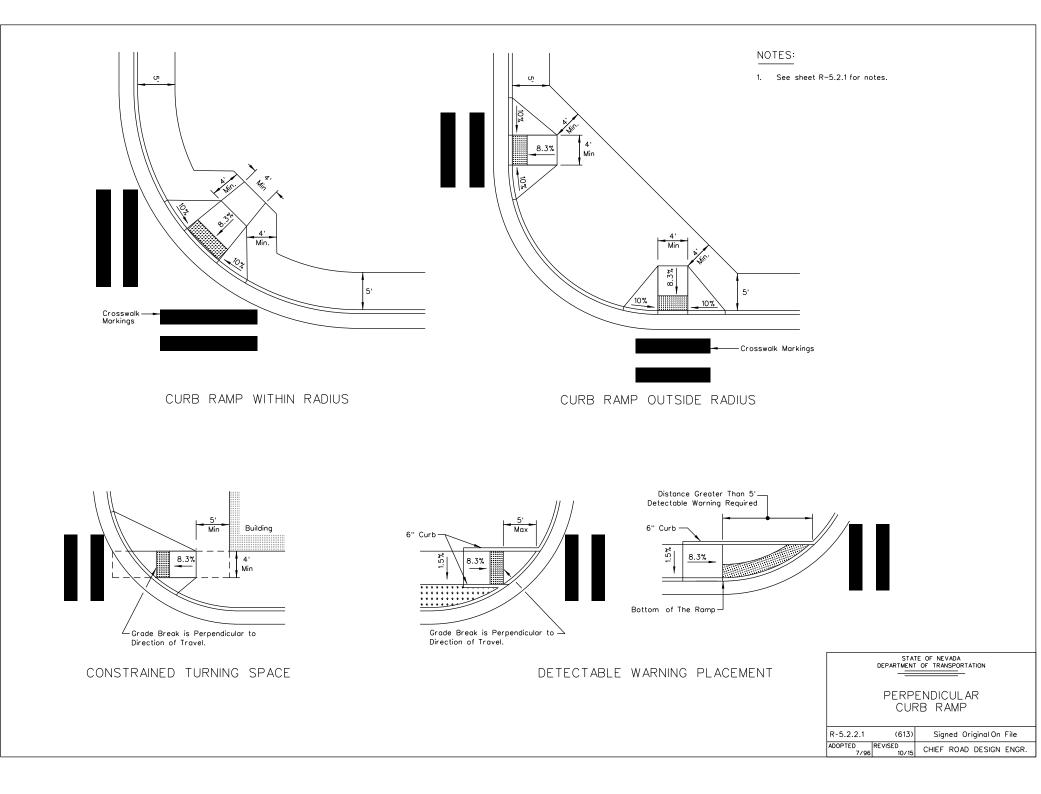
- 1. Extend detectable warning the full width of the curb ramp (exclusive of flared sides).
- 2. Grates for storm drains shall not be placed in the crosswalk or in front of the curb ramp.
- 3. Transitions from ramps to gutters or roadway surface shall be flush and free of abrupt changes.
- 4. Plantmix bituminous open-graded surface shall be flush with the edge of the gutter pan.
- 5. Rough broom texture on curb ramps and wings. Texture shall provide a visual contrast to the sidewalk.
- 6. For crosswalk markings see sheet T-38.1.3.
- All ramps shall be 8.3% or flatter, 15 foot maximum length, Engineer should be notified for assessment if the curb ramp exceeds 15 foot in length due to the longitudinal roadway grade.
- 8. All slope rates are relative to level.
- 9. Concrete shall be class A or AA.
- Raise gutter flowline 2 inch maximum, when required to prevent ponding at the ramp and maintain positive drainage.
- 11. If there are R/W restrictions the sidewalk width can be reduced to no less than 4 foot with approval of the Assistant Chief Road Design Engineer. If the sidewalk width is less than 5 foot then 5 foot by 5 foot passing zones are required at 200 foot intervals.
- 12. No direct payment for neat line saw cut. An additional 1 foot of pavement shall be required. If electing to remove an additional 1 foot match existing structural section with patch. No adjustment to the plan quantities for removaland patching.
- 13. Shared use path ramps, excluding the flared sides, shall be as wide as the share use path.

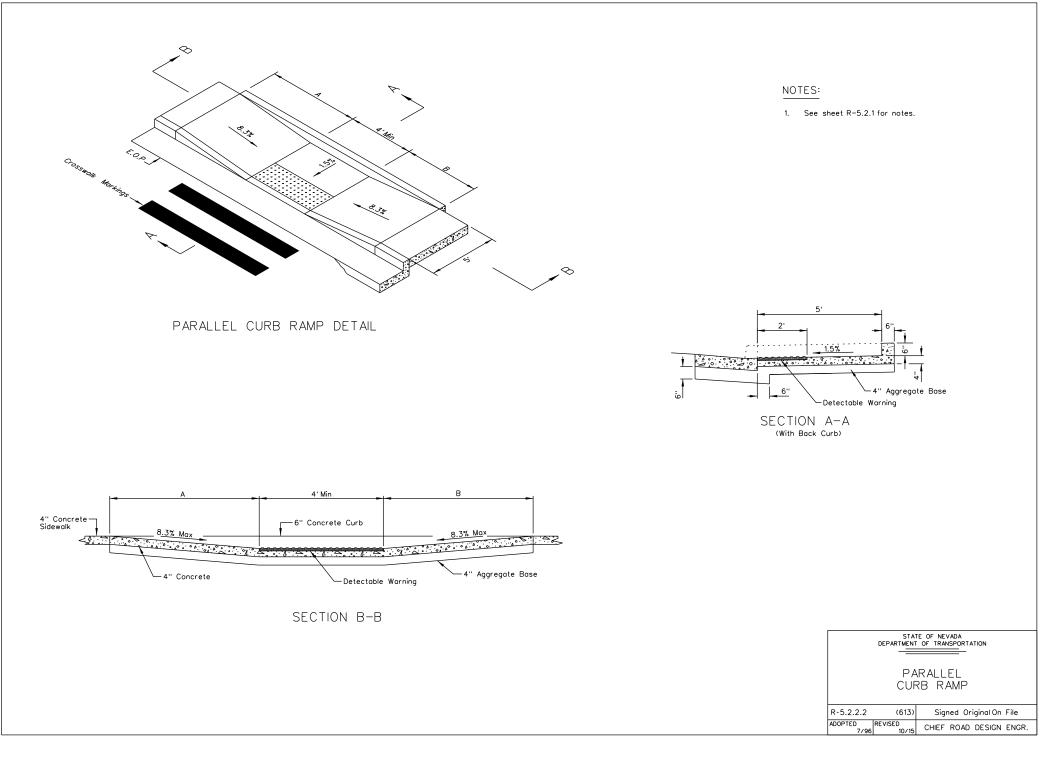


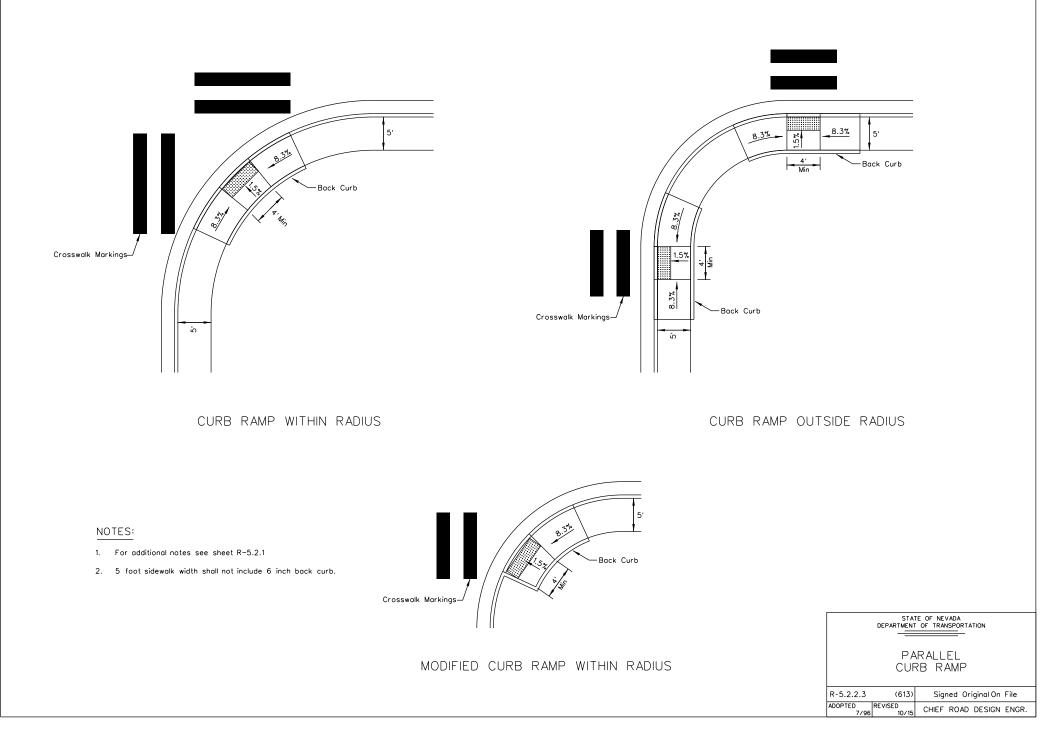
#### DETECTABLE WARNING

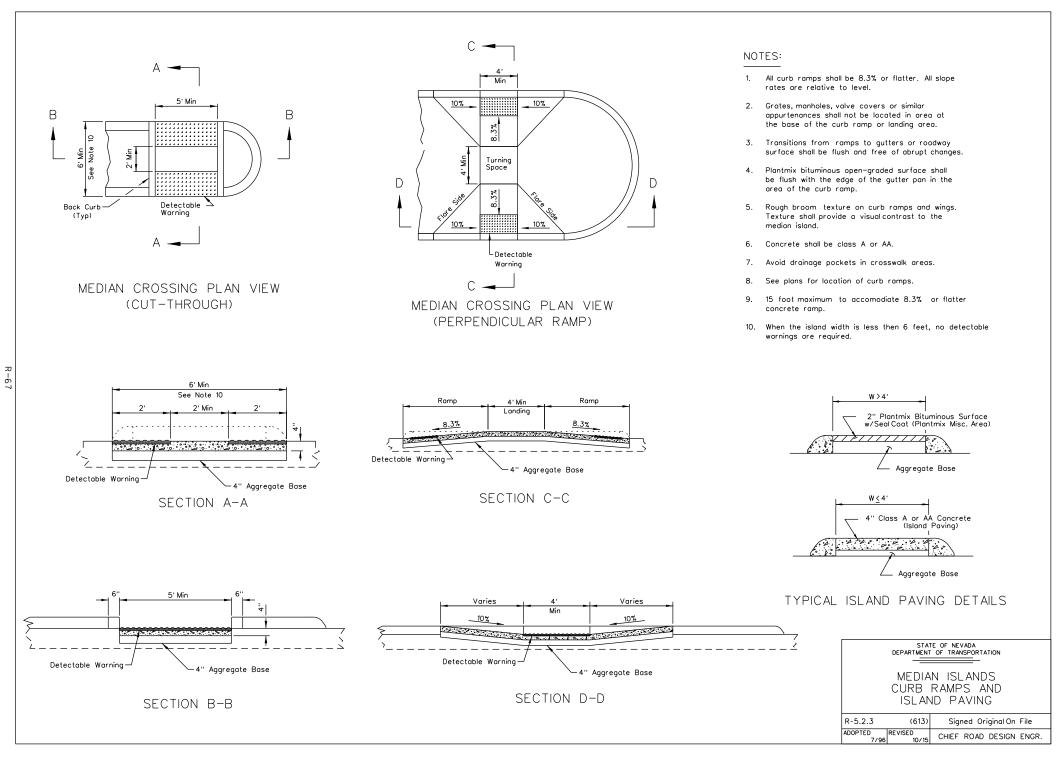
STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION						
CURB RAMPS AND DETECTABLE WARNING						
R-5.2.1	(613)	Signed Original On File				
ADOPTED 7/96	REVISED 10/15	CHIEF ROAD DESIGN ENGR.				





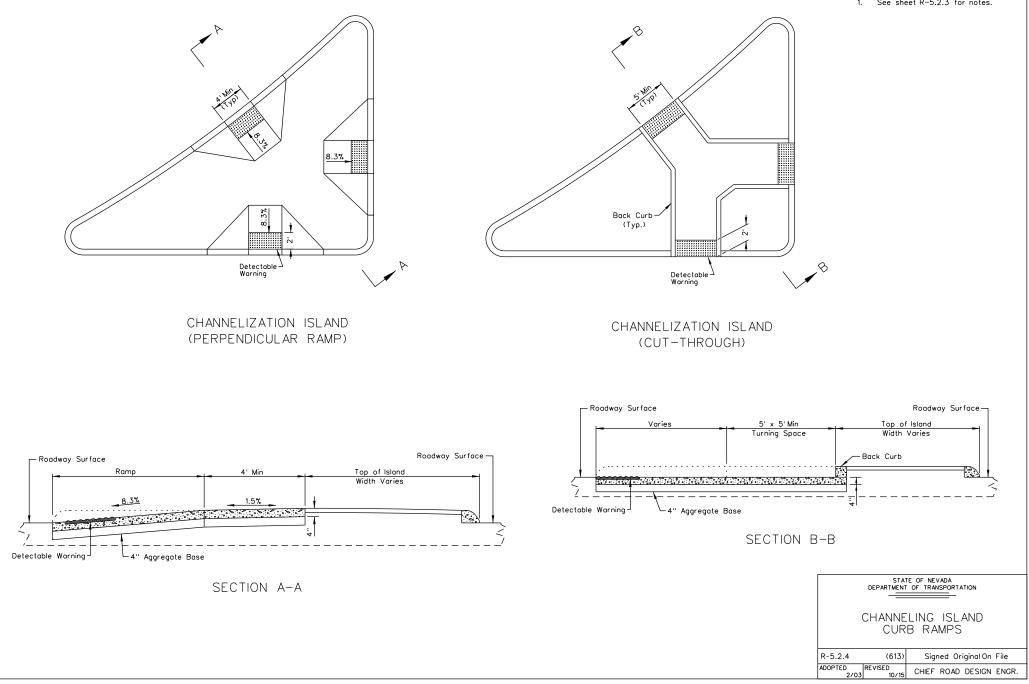


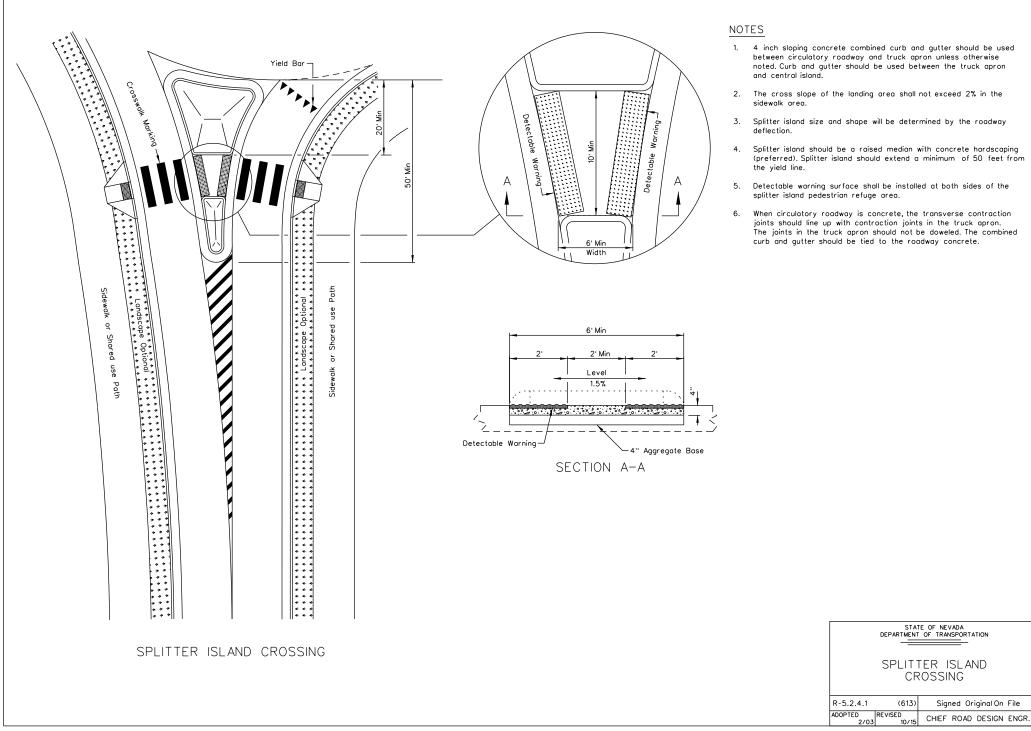




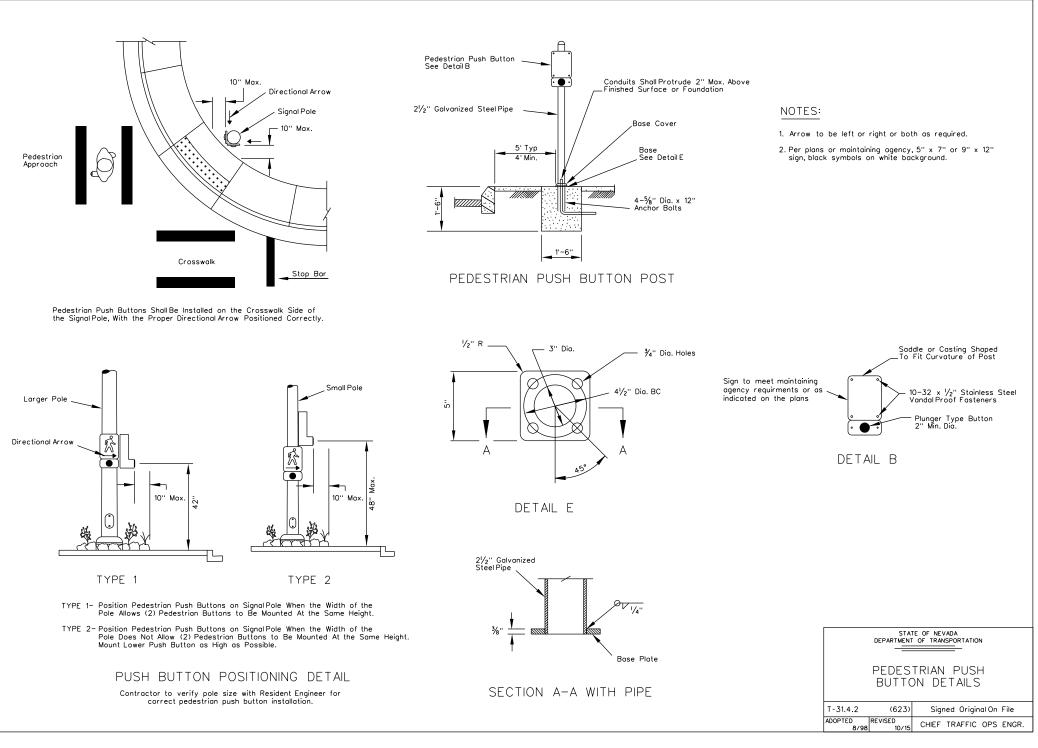
#### NOTES:

1. See sheet R-5.2.3 for notes.





R-69



T-30

