Technical Circular T-02/22
August 3, 2022

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning and Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All Regional Managers, Engineering
All District Managers, Transportation
All Senior Traffic Operations Engineers

Subject: **Decorative Crosswalk Markings on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Right-of-Way**

Purpose:

This technical circular establishes a policy on the design and application of decorative crosswalk markings on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) right-of-way.

The focus of this policy is urban areas, signified by existing speed limits of 50 km/h or less.

Background:

The Ministry has received requests for crosswalk markings that fall outside long-established standard markings used to control traffic at pedestrian crossings. The uniformity of traffic control devices in North America is provided in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

The intent behind the Ministry's acceptance of limited use of decorative crosswalk markings is not to modify the uniformity and safety of well-known markings provided in the MUTCD or Motor Vehicle Act. The Ministry's intent in allowing decorative markings, by permit, is to allow for local geographic or social themes or to recognize a group. Of importance, the Ministry has no interest in applying markings on its highway system that may be deemed objectionable. ICBC, with their personalized license plates application policy, has criteria that outlines what would be objectionable for use on highways in B.C. and is a good resource to help determine what is objectionable (see Appendix A).

Marked pedestrian crossings deliver pedestrian safety through regulatory control. Due to this safety need, current pedestrian markings were developed for uniformity of both design and installation. The Ministry wishes to maintain uniformity; therefore, decorative markings, when applied, will be used in conjunction with existing standardized pedestrian markings. Decorative markings must always be applied between standard white parallel line pavement markings whose use is also contingent with a form of stop control (either stop signs or signalization).

Decorative Crosswalk definition: Decorative crosswalks are those that include non-regulatory, non-standard aesthetic elements such as patterns, designs, colours and textures on the pavement between parallel white crosswalk lines. One example of a decorative crosswalk is the rainbow crosswalk.

Policy:

Installation of decorative crosswalk markings on MoTI right-of-way requires approval from the District Transportation Manager (DMT) for the District where the marked crosswalk resides.

To be eligible for approval the crosswalk **must**:

1. Be stop or signal controlled, or a mid-block crossing with flashers.
    - The allowance of parallel lines at mid-block crossings was previously not permitted as stated in Section 7.3.4 of the Manual of Standard Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings; therefore, flashers are considered mandatory at mid-block crossings utilizing decorative crosswalk markings.
2. Utilize twin parallel lines (not zebra markings).
3. Be within an existing speed zone of 50 km/h or less (or within municipal boundaries and operating as a statutory 50 km/h limit).
4. Include all regulatory signs and standard pavement markings typical of a stop or signal controlled, or mid-block crossing.

For a decorative crosswalk marking request at a location where there is no existing crosswalk, the District should consider whether the crosswalk is warranted using the BC Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide.

The DMT may deny requests.

Application:

Following approval by the DMT, decorative crosswalk markings will be installed as per the following:

- All regulatory signs and standard pavement markings typical of a stop or signal controlled, or mid-block crossing shall be present.
- Decorative crosswalks markings are NOT to be reflectorized, as decorative markings are not a traffic control device.
- For a mid-block crossing with flashers, zebra markings must be replaced with parallel lines to include decorative markings between the parallel lines.

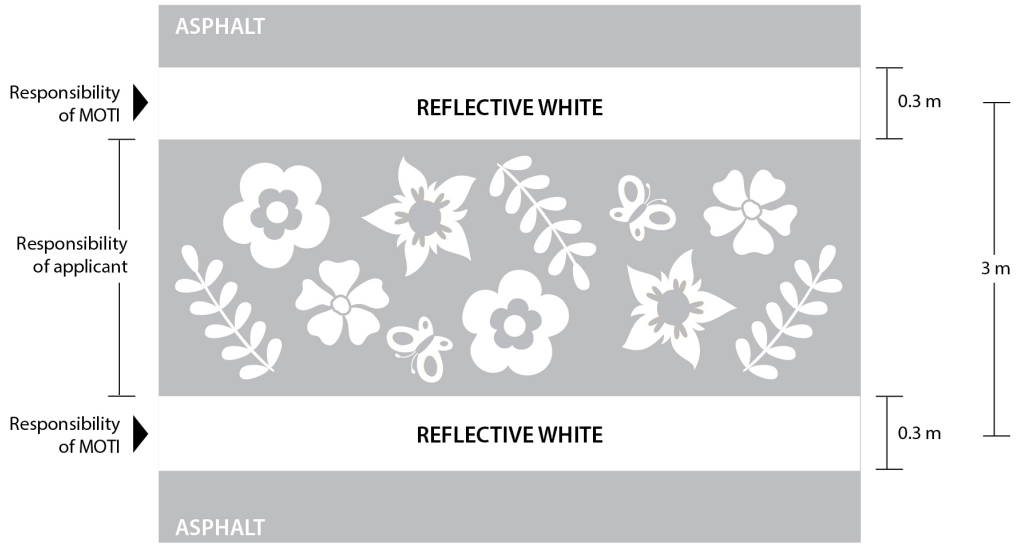
Decorative crosswalk designs should be kept simple. Detailed, intricate designs are difficult to maintain and can lose their meaning when worn.

Colour choice for decorative crosswalks should be selected using readily available colours, such as the following:

- Purple: Pantone 266C
- Blue: Pantone 286C
- Green: Pantone 7482C
- Yellow: Pantone Medium Yellow C
- Orange: Pantone Bright Orange C
- Red: Pantone 185 C

Figure 1 illustrates the general layout for a decorative crosswalk. Additional example applications can be found in Appendix B.

Figure 1: General Decorative Crosswalk Layout



Materials and Road Surface Condition:

- The current road surface at the intersection should be in good condition: free of rutting, alligator cracking, pot holes, and raveling.
- Decorative markings shall be anti-slip and should be made of durable markings unless otherwise specified (i.e. thermoplastic or methyl methacrylate).
- Decorative crosswalks should not involve replacement of a section of road surface with a different material (e.g. no bricks or pavers) as this creates the potential for uneven settlement and pavement deterioration around the seams. Decorative markings should be applied to the asphalt road surface (painted or stamped).
- No repaving plans should exist for at least 3 years at the crosswalk location.

Cost:

Applicants are financially responsible for both the installation and maintenance (or unexpected damage/vandalism) of decorative crosswalk markings. Installation and maintenance costs of decorative crosswalk markings can be approximately six times higher than standard pavement markings due to their specialized design. Maintenance of decorative crosswalk markings using durable materials can be expected every 3 years, unless otherwise required due to wheel path wear, vandalism, or wear due to winter aggregate use.

Implementation:

All permit applications for decorative crosswalk pavement markings should be directed to the local Ministry district office in which the crosswalk resides. If approved, the Ministry district will assist in arranging installation utilizing Ministry approved suppliers. The cost of the work will be paid directly by the applicant to the approved supplier and installer. Applicants should ensure they agree with the conditions outlined in the permit issued by the Ministry.

Of greatest importance is the applicants' clear understanding and commitment to costs involved with installation and the markings ongoing future maintenance. The applicants should be prepared to maintain the markings for at least 5 years. If after 5 years, the applicants no longer provides maintenance for the markings, the Ministry may eradicate the markings.

Applicants need to be made aware that the Ministry reserves the right to remove markings on its highway system at any time.

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Appendix A: ICBC License Plate Criteria Outlining what is Objectionable

https://www.icbc.com/vehicle-registration/licence-plates/Pages/Personalized-licence-plates.aspx

Slogans may be deemed objectionable under the following criteria:

- **Human rights discrimination**: slogans which express or imply disrespect of race, religion, place of origin, ancestry, colour, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, or political belief.
- **Sexually suggestive**: inappropriate connotations.
- **Abusive, obscene, or derogatory language**: offensive slang in any language.
- **Driving risks**: references to speed, speeding, other risky driving behaviour or anything contrary to road safety.
- **Drugs/alcohol related**: terms describing alcohol or other legal or illegal drugs, including brand names and slang; reference to the use sale, effects, and/or consumption of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, or paraphernalia used in the consumption thereof.
- **Violence/criminal activity/bullying**: words associated with weapons or threats; connotations about violence, illegal activity or bullying.
- **Intellectual property** (such as trademarks): infringement of intellectual property rights such as trademarks, except if the applicant provides written approval of the trademark owner.
- **Religion, politics, public figures, dignitaries and law enforcement official**: religious, political, law enforcement connotations or falsely suggesting association with an institution such as law enforcement, a church, or government.

References to non-profit advocacy, trade or similar entities may be acceptable, subject to all of the criteria above

Appendix B: Example Decorative Crosswalk Layouts

Figure 2: Decorative Mid-block Crosswalk with Flashers

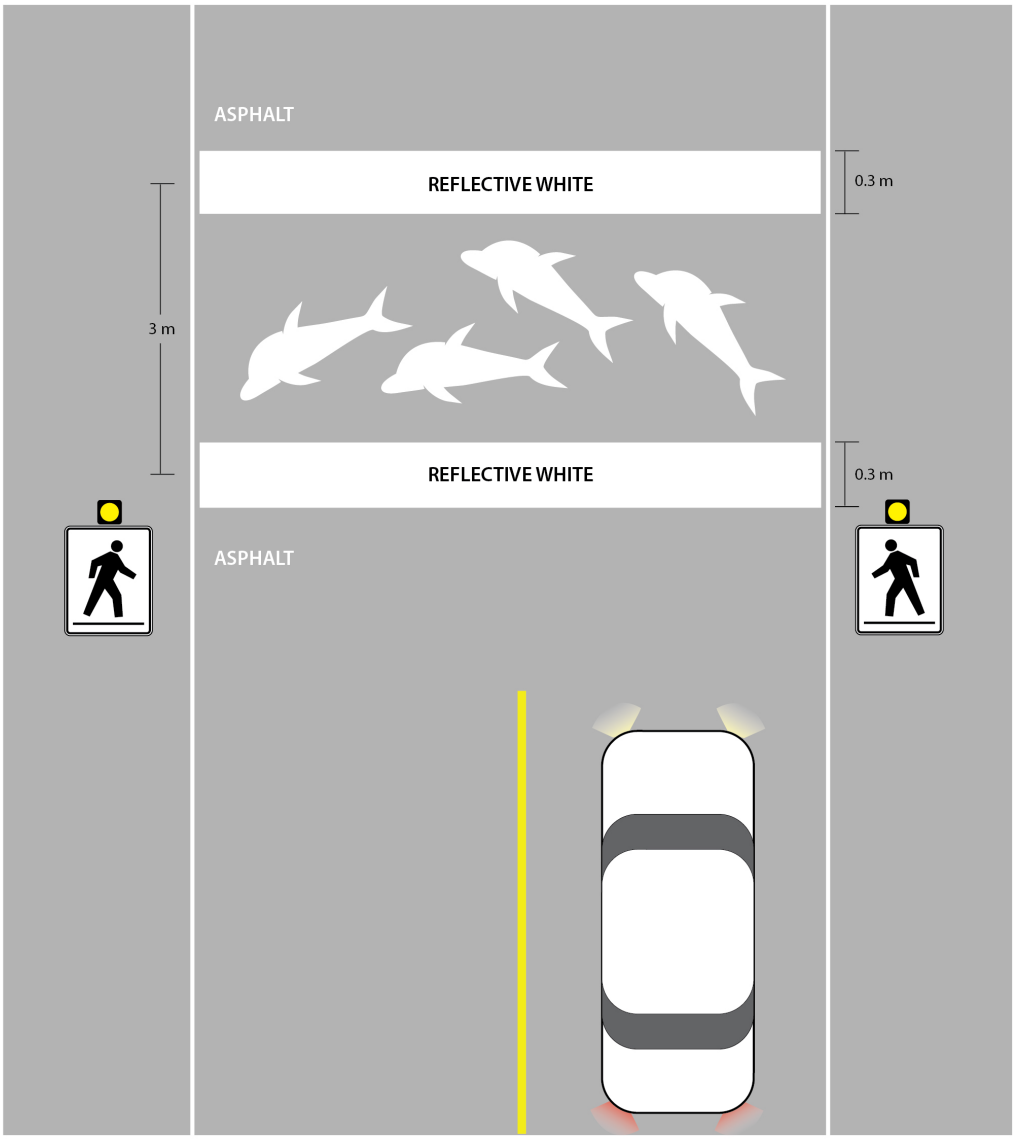


Figure 3: Decorative Crosswalk at 4-Way Stop Control Intersection

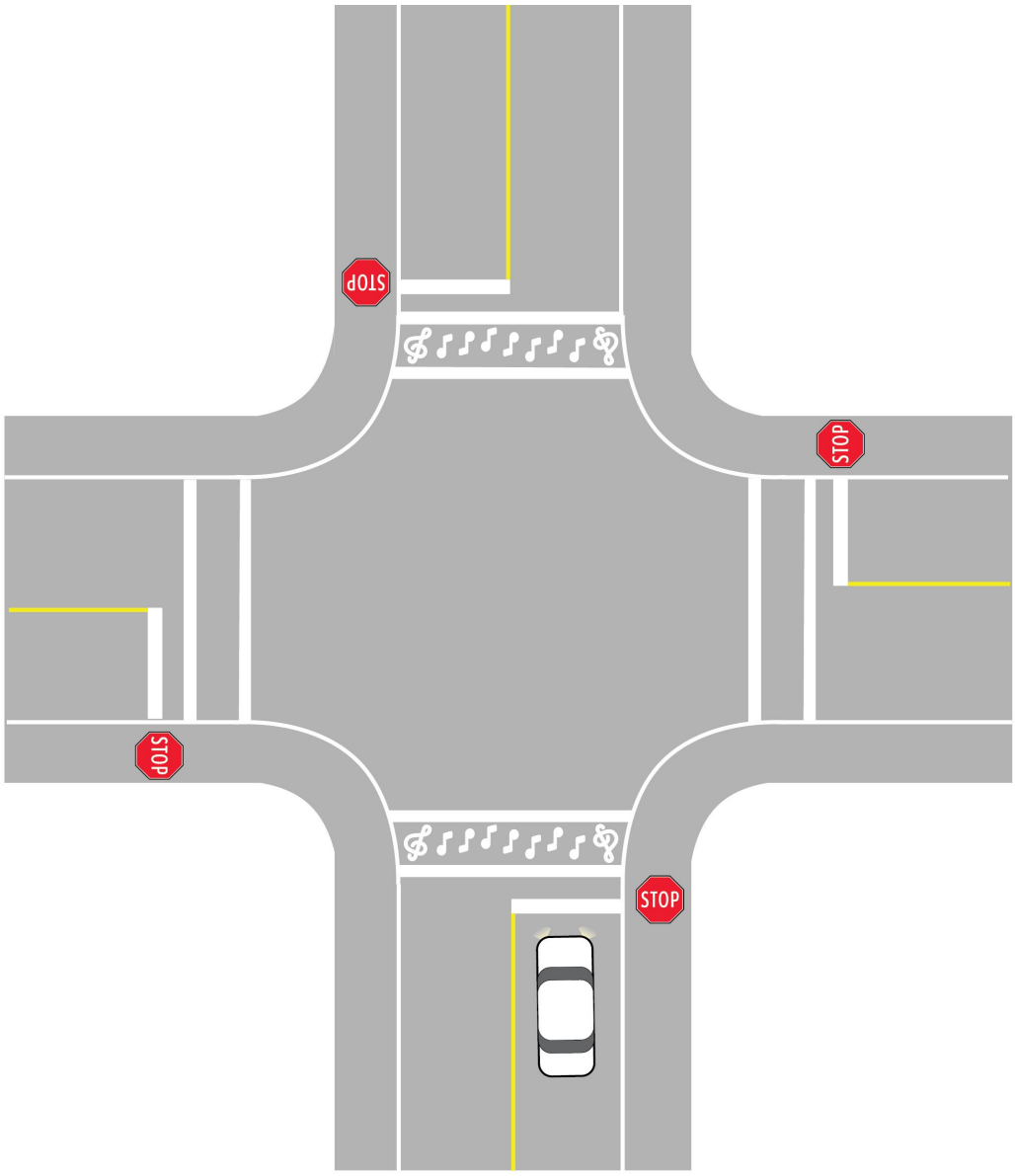


Figure 4: Decorative Crosswalk 4-Leg Intersection with Right Turn Channel

