

Dedicated turning lanes

The department is committed to creating a safe and efficient road network and undertakes ongoing assessment of the network to identify where dedicated turning lanes may be required at rural and urban intersections.

Dedicated turning lanes allow vehicles to slow down to turn left or right at intersections, minimising impact on the flow of the straight through traffic.

Dedicated turning lanes can:

- reduce delays and queuing of vehicles at intersections
- allow motorists more time to find an appropriate gap in the opposing traffic without delaying vehicles behind them
- reduce the number of rear-end and sideswipe crashes
- improve traffic flow
- increase intersection capacity
- improve general road safety.

The two common types of dedicated turning lanes are:

1. dedicated right turn
2. dedicated left turn.

On roads with traffic signals, these lanes may be accompanied by a traffic light indicating when it is safe to turn, or a 'Turn left at any time with care' sign.

At some intersections a combination of dedicated left or right turn lanes may be installed to improve intersection safety.



Dedicated right and left turning lane combination

Dedicated right turns

Dedicated right turning lanes are usually defined by a raised median and/or painted line markings and pavement arrows. They allow right turning vehicles to exit the through-traffic lane/s and queue in a dedicated right turn lane, thereby minimising the impact on the through-traffic. Right turning lanes allow motorists to safely wait until they can find an appropriate gap in the opposing traffic to turn safely.



Dedicated right turn lane on a major road

Dedicated left turns

Dedicated left turning lanes are also defined by a raised median and/or painted line markings and arrows. They allow left turning vehicles to exit the through-traffic lane/s and slow down to safely make the left turn. This also helps to reduce the likelihood of rear-end crashes and reduce queues in the through-lane.

Further safety benefits are achieved if the dedicated left turning lane is separated from the adjacent through-lane. This creates better sightlines for vehicles wishing to turn from the minor/side road into the major road.



Dedicated left turn lane on a major road