



3-6-1 Delineators

October 2017

GENERAL

Delineators are reflective devices, mounted in a series along the side of a highway providing guidance by indicating the alignment at night and/or under adverse weather conditions.

The 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) [Part 3F](#) addresses the use of delineators. Additional guidance is given in Part [5E](#) and [6F](#) and [Facilities Development Manual](#).

POLICY—FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

Locations

Delineators **shall** be used on unlighted freeways and expressways and *may* be used if they are continuously lit. Delineators *should not* be installed on the left side unless there are operational problems or high crash experience. Delineators also *should not* be used behind barrier wall or guardrail. They are to be installed as part of the barrier wall or guardrail.

Delineators **shall** only be used on conventional highways if there are crash or operational issues, as documented by an engineering study and approved by the Regional Traffic Engineer. Delineators **shall not** be installed along the left side of any roadway having bi-directional traffic. Chevrons are the recommended choice of treatment for the left side of roadway and guidance on the usage of chevrons can be found in [TEOpS 2-3-10](#).

Size and Color

The color of delineator **shall** match the color of the pavement marking line being supplemented. Delineator dimensions are shown in SDD 15A2 through 15A7.

Longitudinal Spacing

Delineators are to be placed at 100' center-to-center spacing on ramps and 400' center-to-center spacing on mainline. If they are interrupted, then they *may* be moved in either direction up to 25' for ramps and 100' for mainline. A minimum of 3 delineators is required.

Offset Distance

Delineators **shall** be placed at a constant distance from the edge of shoulder for the length of the installation, typically 4 feet. If a barrier wall or parapet is present place the delineators on the wall.

Transition Areas

Engineering judgment **shall** be used to adjust the longitudinal and offset spacing in any transition area. Consideration must be given to the function of providing guidance of the roadway alignment and as an aide for night driving.

