

# Install Post-Mounted Delineators



These delineators help drivers stay within the travel lane and anticipate changes in roadway geometry, especially at night or in adverse weather.

## Implementation Strategy

### How and Where to Apply

- Install on curves, ramps, and tangent sections of high-speed arterials, freeways, and expressways—especially in areas prone to nighttime crashes or lacking sufficient roadway lighting.
- Delineators are reflective devices mounted on posts at regular intervals along the roadside or median, typically positioned to indicate roadway alignment through curves and other transitions.

### Use in a Safe System Approach

By improving visual guidance and enhancing driver awareness of roadway alignment, delineators act as a low-cost, high-impact countermeasure that supports proactive crash prevention. They offer an added layer of defense that acknowledges and compensates for common human errors like late perception or poor depth judgment at night.

### Key Stakeholders

State DOTs, Highway Safety Engineers

### Proactive Implementation

Identify curves or segments with a history of nighttime or run-off-road crashes, particularly on unlit roads. Incorporate delineators into routine maintenance or safety improvement programs, especially during resurfacing, restriping, or signage upgrades. Use asset management systems to prioritize locations with insufficient visual guidance or minimal existing infrastructure.

## Countermeasure Overview

**Objective:** Keep vehicles from encroaching on the roadside.

**Strategy:** Provide enhanced shoulder or in-lane delineation and marking for sharp curves.

## Selected Related Countermeasures

- CM1 Chevron signs
- CM2 Enhanced edge lines
- CM3 Raised pavement markers

**Cost:** Low

**Service Life:** 5 years

## Targeted Solution



### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Reduced visibility
- Lack of visual cues



### TARGET CRASH TYPE

- Run-off Road



### ROAD FACILITY TYPE

- Principal Arterial
- Freeways, expressways



### AREA TYPE

- All

## Safety Linkage



### NCHRP 500 Series

Run-off roads



### SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Safe Roads



### AASHTO'S TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Safer Infrastructures

### SAFE SYSTEM ROADWAY DESIGN

TIER 1

TIER 2

TIER 3

TIER 4

Tier 4

Post-mounted Delineators, Source: [impactrecovery.com](http://impactrecovery.com).

## Safety Benefits

- Installing post-mounted delineators is associated with an increase in crashes.
- To improve safety, use delineators together with other visibility and guidance measures, such as reflective pavement markers, improved roadway lighting, and targeted driver awareness campaigns, especially at curves and high-risk locations.

<sup>1</sup>CMF ID: 7265

## Resources

- [Study of Flexible Delineator Post Performance and Revision of Existing Pre-Qualification Specifications](#)
- [Traffic Accident Analysis and Roadway Visibility](#)

