



Tech Brief 2017-1

DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION Signs and Markings

Have you ever tried to drive across a busy intersection and not been able to because a vehicle was blocking access for other vehicles or pedestrians? Section 3B.17 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provides treatments available to address this situation at unsignalized intersections. In addition, Section 14-250b of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) helps to regulate motor vehicles from obstructing



signalized intersections by allowing municipalities to adopt ordinances that designate signalized intersections where blocking is prohibited and subject to fine.

An intersection is defined in section 14-212 of the CGS as “the area embraced within the prolongation of the lateral curb lines of two or more highways which join one another at an angle, whether or not one of the highways crosses the other.” The term “highway” defined under the same section

“includes any state or other public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway, place or dedicated roadway for bus rapid transit service, under the control of

the state or any political sub-division of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to public travel or other use.”

Based on these definitions, Section 14-250b does not apply to school or private driveways, including shopping center driveways, as the driveways must be under state/town ownership **and** opened to public travel or use. However, a driveway to a municipally owned public parking lot, parking structure, firehouse or police station, would fit the definition of “highway” and could be considered for the special markings.

The markings should not be considered where they would detract from other more important markings within an intersection such as, but not limited to, dotted lane guide marking or similar (aka “cat tracks” or “elephant tracks”).

Although the treatment is sometimes referred to as “Do Not Block the Box” signing and markings, the MUTCD does not allow for “the Box” legend on the signs or markings.

What are the steps in installing a **Do Not Block Intersection** area in an intersection?

Signalized - If one or more approaches is a state highway, see note below. If not, then

- Establish a local ordinance with a list of intersections.
- Sign and mark the signalized intersection in accordance with the standards defined in Section 14-250b of the CGS. If epoxy stripes are used, reflective beads should NOT be used on the stripes due to the beads’ negative effect on traction. See typical example in Figure 1.

Unsignalized - If one or more approaches is a state highway, see note below. If not, then

- Legal Traffic Authority (LTA) can authorize treatment in accordance with Section 3B.17 of the MUTCD

Note: A municipality desiring to pursue Do Not Block Intersection signs and pavement markings at either a signalized or unsignalized intersection where one or more approaches is a state highway must obtain an encroachment permit from the appropriate CTDOT district office. The district office has the right to deny any such request and all installations must be in conformance with OSTA requirements as set forth in Traffic Investigation Report No. 170-1607-02.

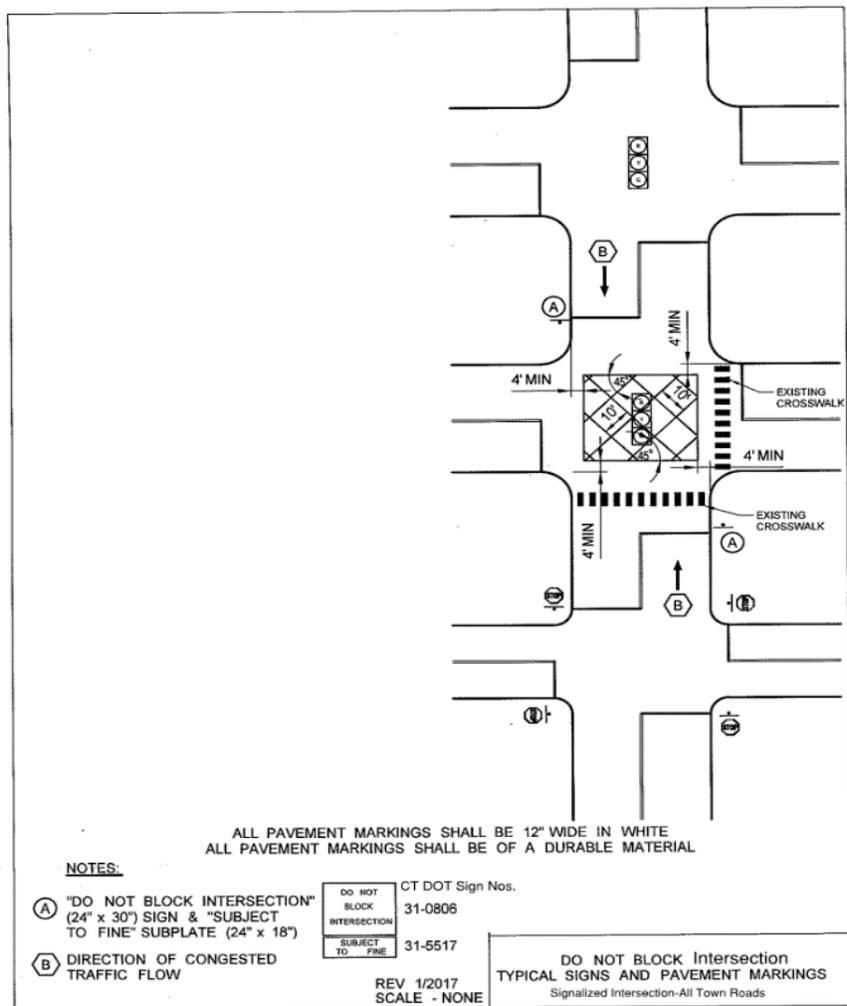


Figure 1: Town Road Signalized Intersection Detail

Helpful online resources:

Section 14-250b of the CGS: https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_248.htm

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