



VEHICLE/PEDESTRIAN PROTECTIVE MEASURES & OTHER FURNITURE

1.0 Introduction :

Through this section within the Policy and Guidelines document, the Authority for Transport in Malta aims to guide applicants as to the acceptable and non-acceptable standards with regards to the implementation of vehicle / pedestrian protective measures and other furniture on the road network, with the ultimate aim of conserving and where possible improving road safety for vehicles and pedestrians. This section also guides the applicant on applying for the installation of advertising material to be integrated within such structures.

The introduction of any of the measures listed within this part of the policy requires a TM permit as regulated through **CAP 499 : Authority for Transport in Malta Act**. Such permits will need to be validated and rendered directly by the respective local council. It is to be noted that Transport Malta permit does not preclude the applicant from obtaining any other necessary permit, authorisation or licence required at law from other authorities such as the Planning Authority, the Lands Authority and others as the law may require.

2.0 Procedure :

2.1 Protective Measures

Any local council may apply for the introduction of protective measures on the road network within its locality, should it be deemed by the Local Council that such measure is required in order to enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety, while reducing the risk of collisions.

In this case, protective measures are regarded as road safety equipment and refer to a number of different installations placed to enhance safety in the event of an emergency on the road. They offer protection in cases where a vehicle loses control.

2.2 Other furniture

Street Furniture includes any equipment, which is placed on the road and which is not regulated in any other part within this policy for Permanent Traffic Management.

There may be instances where the installation of street furniture is a risk in itself; hence it is highly recommended that these installations are limited to spaces where there is real necessity for such equipment. If space is a limitation, then adequate traffic calming measures on the carriageway should be proposed in lieu.

2.3 Advertisements

It is understood that some of the protective measures or other furniture may incorporate advertisements. It is to be noted that it is preferred that any advertising material is integrated within other useful structures on the road surface, however it is also understood that each locality may require to have clear directions towards businesses and amenities within same, mainly for directional purposes.

Below is a list of general recommendations for adverts on roads :

- There shall be no adverts on 3rd party property unless there is approval of the owner and the necessary authorities. It is to be noted that the Authority for Transport shall not go into the merits of adverts within private property, unless it is deemed that these are creating a safety issue or

distraction to drivers, in which case the Authority will intervene for the advert to be removed or altered,

- Message should be clear and distinct,
- Messages should be printed,
- All approvals shall be issued subject to no prejudice to third party,
- Applicant will remain responsible to obtain any other necessary permit, authorisation or licence as required at law from other authorities such as the Planning Authority, the Lands Authority and others as the law may require,
- Advert size and location shall be limited to locations identified herewith,
- No adverts can be fixed to existing infrastructure such as traffic signs, electricity poles, directional signage, traffic devices, utility infrastructure, etc...,
- An Advert shall not be affixed at any location where, by reason of position, shape, wording or colour, it interferes with or obstructs the view of pedestrians and vehicular traffic,
- To ensure that adverts are not confusing to drivers with any traffic sign, signal or device,
- Such adverts shall not be installed on footpaths in a way that they hinder the access to / on pavements.

The provisions of Subsidiary Legislation 552.28 – Billboards and Advertisements Regulations, should also be adhered to by applicants. Billboards are not regulated by this Policy, Billboard Permits and Licences are regulated separately under S.L. 552.28.

Any advertisement deemed to be obstructing road access, obscuring signs, or that is dangerously distracting to drivers will be taken down, even if permission was initially granted. The Authority shall inform the relevant Local Council of such advertisements, allowing a minimum 48-hour rectification period, prior to removal of such advertisements.

2.4 Application

Applications may be submitted by the local councils through any of the following means but shall always include the basic documentation listed below. Applications may reach Transport Malta in any of the following formats ;

- E-Mail on the email addresses provided by the Authority, using adequate form attached to this policy as **Annex A – Chapter 16**
- Traditional Post on address provided by the Authority, using adequate form attached to this policy as **Annex A – Chapter 16**
- E-Forms through the dedicated portal.

Documentation :

- ✓ **Application Form** entitled *Vehicle / Pedestrian Protective Measures & Other Furniture*. Form should describe reasons for request.
- ✓ **Site plan** at adequate scale showing proposed location of the proposed measure.
- ✓ **Site photos** – at least 3 photos including at least one street scape of the road. The photos need to be recent (taken within the last 3 months) and should indicate the date. Photos may also indicate approximate location of item in red.
- ✓ **Footway width**
- ✓ **Road width**
- ✓ **Direction/s of traffic on road**
- ✓ **Any other applicable dimensions.**

Should the request include advertising material the below additional information will also be required :

- ✓ **Type of Adverts** (permitted types are as listed within this policy & guidance document)
- ✓ **Dimensions of advert** (length x breath x height)
- ✓ **Sanctioning of existing adverts will not be permitted**
- ✓ **Clear indication on whether the advert shall be integrated within protective measures or whether this shall be standalone used for advertising purposes only.**

2.5 Communication & Feedback :

- The applications for vehicular / pedestrian protective measures & other furniture, are to be submitted by the local council to the Authority for Transport in Malta for assessment.
- The Authority will consider the applications for vehicular / pedestrian protective measures & other furniture as submitted by the respective local council.
- The Authority may request additional information that is to be forwarded by not later than thirty (30) days from the date of request.
- In the case that such information is not received within this stipulated timeline it will be understood that the local council does not wish to pursue this matter further. Otherwise, the local council may wish to inform the Authority that they require more time to prepare the additional information requested and the Authority will act accordingly.
- The Authority may also require any certifications and / or datasheets, which it deems necessary especially with regards to structural and safety integrity. It is to be noted that it is however responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any product installed is certified as per standards and that installation is carried out as per manufacturers' instructions and in accordance to any other permits required by law.
- In the case of Arterial and Distributor roads, the Local Council or Transport Malta may be required to consult with Infrastructure Malta.
- Once that all the information is in hand the Authority shall process the application within 4 weeks.
- The local council is to inform the Authority within 5 days of completed works and shall verify that works have been completed according to approvals issued.

It is important to note that once that a permit is issued, the applicant shall apply for a Road Works Permit from the relevant unit at Transport Malta, in accordance with Subsidiary Legislation 499.57 – New Roads and Road Works Regulations.

3.0 Criteria for Approval

3.1 General

The aim is to :

- Minimise clutter on the road and its infrastructure,
- Regulate the installation and removal of furniture,
- Help to keep our town centres attractive for visitors and residents,
- Make sure the roads stay safe and free from obstructions, distractions and dangerous installations.

Any protective measure or other furniture shall :

- be placed at least 0.45m from external edge of kerb, whilst a minimum of 0.30m may be considered in cases where the protective measure is highly recommended and when there is no alternative solution to reduce safety risks,
- not block pedestrian or driver visibility,
- be not higher than 0.60m in case that this is in central verge or at corner,
- allow an unhindered minimum width of 1.30m on footpaths whilst a minimum of 1.00m may be considered in cases where the protective measure is highly recommended and when there is no alternative solution to reduce safety risks,
- In the eventuality that it is established that the present road configuration does not allow for the minimum standards to be applied, the Authority may vary these requirements to best accommodate these measures within the existing set-up.
- be kept clean and tidy,
- The Authority for Transport in Malta will find no objection without prejudice to third party rights,
- Execution of works is subject to the acquisition of any other permission, licence or authorisation from the relevant public authorities as required by law,
- Transport Malta, in accepting the request submitted would have limited its involvement to ensuring that such request was assessed in compliance with the technical guidelines and policies as established by the Authority for Transport in Malta Act Chapter 499.

It is to be noted that the decision of the Authority is final as established within the parameters of CAP 499 of the laws of Malta. It is also essential to note that the Authority reserves the right to withdraw any issued permit if it so deems necessary and the Local Council and owner shall be required to remove the equipment and any other ancillaries from road with 3 working days from date of advice.

4.0 Types of Protective Measures & Furniture Considered

Various types are listed hereunder however list is not exhaustive and other equipment may be considered accordingly. It is also responsibility of applicant / owner to ascertain that products installed are certified adequate and conformant to the relevant standards.

Images below are for reference purposes only and are in no way publicising or identifying the use of the particular item / brand shown.

It is to be noted that maintenance of any measure and furniture is responsibility of the applicant.

4.1 Vehicle Restraint Systems – VRS (Crash Barrier) impose stronger requirements on road infrastructure and use of road safety systems. One of the ways to improve road safety is the use of road restraint systems. Road safety barriers not only reduce the number of road traffic accidents, but also lessen the severity of accidents. Various types of road safety barriers and their selection criteria for different types of road sections are available.

The Authority may assist in the selection of the appropriate type of crash barrier. No advertisements are allowed on this type of measure.



16.1 Example of Crash Barrier on footpath,
<https://www.ecyarmco.co.uk/>



16.2 Example of Crash Barrier in road,
<https://www.indiamart.com/>

4.2 Bollards represent a short multi-purpose vertical item that can offer increased safety or traffic control in a specific location. It can be constructed from concrete, iron or from stainless steel.

There are several situations in which protective bollards can be used, especially steel bollards that are popular for their durability.

Steel bollards are great for boosting safety of pedestrians, along with protecting buildings from unexpected accidents. Bollards function similarly to a barrier or fence, yet they do not stand out as obstructive. If a decorative steel bollard is chosen, one can also give an extra touch of style to the surrounding environment.

Bollards are related to the fact that these elements can create a visual containment. Bollards positioned along sidewalks can prevent pedestrian traffic from diverting from the zone. Also, they set up a broader visual boundary.

It is also to be noted that such bollards, can also however be detrimental to drivers should it be the case that a vehicle hits the bollard at high velocity.

Such bollards should always have a reflective strip and no advertising is permitted onto these bollards.



16.3 Example of Stainless-Steel Bollards when used on footways,
<https://www.indiamart.com/>



16.4 Example Metal Bollards with retroreflective strip,
<https://gil.glasdon.com/>

4.3 U-Bars (Barriers) U - Bars in roads are not preferred unless they are used as ‘barriers to progress’ in public spaces. For such equipment to be approved it needs to be strongly justified on road safety grounds and with clear reasoning on how the measure will contribute to improved road safety.

Advertisements on such barriers are permitted on the following specific criteria :

- Do not exceed the 0.30m in height
- must be rigid
- must be fixed as an integral part of the structure (example : tie clips are not permitted)
- to leave 0.60m clear height from footpath level
- structure is to be left visible at all times
- no illumination (electrical) is allowed unless this equipment is located in pedestrian zones.



16.5 Example of metal barriers used to stagger flow on passageway,
<https://www.alamy.com/>



16.6 Example of metal barriers used to delineate footway,
<https://www.innoplast.com/>

Café Barriers cannot be used in road since they are deemed not to have any road safety benefits. These structures may however be fixed when they form an integral part of Outdoor Catering Areas, commonly referred to as the 'tables and chairs' permit, regulated under its own polices and guidelines.



16.7 Example of café barrier,
<https://gorillaprint.com.au/>

4.4 Street Cabinets and Feeder Pillars are required for a broad range of purposes by the Local Council and utility companies. Their visual impact should be minimised by ensuring, wherever possible, that they are co-ordinated with other street furniture in the immediate vicinity. In this case, there should be clear indication of the owner of the cabinet, however, no advertisements can be placed on the cabinet. Wrapping to allow better integration with the surroundings may be considered.



16.8 Example of feeder pillar / cabinet on footway,
<https://www.dovecomputers.com/>

4.5 Seats and Benches may be provided in areas that are well used by pedestrians if there is sufficient room to prevent them causing an obstruction.

No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.9 Example of Seating,
<https://www.photlo.com/>

4.6 Pedestrian Guardrail / Railing can be an important safety feature in some instances, but it can also reduce the capacity of the footway, partially obstruct pedestrians' and drivers' inter-visibility and make pedestrians feel constrained. Such guard rails will only be permitted where it can be fully justified on road safety grounds and where it clearly contributes to improved road safety.

At pedestrian assembly areas, for example school approaches where children may run straight out into the road, the school will, in the first instance, be encouraged to provide measures, such as a chicane of guard rails, within their own land that encourages children to proceed slowly and in small groups, onto the road.

Pedestrian railings / guardrails shall be 1.10m high. Colour and material shall be submitted to the Authority for approval. Metal is preferred.

Advertisement strips may be permitted as long as they :

- do not exceed 0.20m in height
- are rigid
- are fixed as an integral part of the structure (example : tie clips are not permitted)
- leave 0.60m clear height from footpath level
- leave the structure in a visible manner at all times
- do not hinder the handrail and its use
- are not illuminated, unless the railing is specifically located in a pedestrian zone.

Tall fences and other pedestrian barriers may be considered to channel pedestrians to an overpass or underpass. These are not always effective, however, since pedestrians find ways to go around the barriers and cross at intersections.



16.10 - 11 Examples of pedestrian Guardrail / Railing,
<https://www.externalworkindex.co.uk/>, <https://www.externalworkindex.co.uk/>

4.7 Cycle Parking Stands should be positioned where they are convenient for cyclists without obstructing other users. The recommended design for general use is the Sheffield type.

No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.12 Examples of Sheffield Type Cycle Rack,
<https://www.arlau.com/>

4.8 Litter Bins are to be provided where they are needed. Free-standing bins with liners are suitable for most locations. However, at some locations, bins may be located on other existing furniture to help reduce street clutter. Due to discarded cigarettes and gum being a problem with regards to cleanliness, ash and gum bins combined with litter bins can be effective and are suggested.

No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.13 Examples of Litter Bins,
<https://www.specifiedby.com/>

4.9 Recycling Bins are often difficult to reconcile with the streetscape and sites are to be chosen carefully.

No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.14 Examples of Recycling Bins,
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/>

4.10 Feather / sail flag banners may be permitted in the form of an advertisement to be displayed as a flag, on one flagstaff, fixed upright under the following guidelines :

- each flag must be on a single vertical flagstaff
- the flagstaffs must not exceed 2.5m high

- the flags must not exceed 2 square metres in area and area is to be distributed evenly along the staff. Full advert is permitted within this area.
- such flags may be set at a minimum distance of 1.5m from each other
- no illumination is allowed
- the flags can only be fixed on the internal side of a property and it must be ensured that the 'sail' does not protrude onto the footpath or the road, in a way in which it may hinder traffic, pedestrians or cyclists.
- flags are also not permitted in verges.

Transport Malta permit is only required should the flagstaff be placed in roads, and the Authority shall retain the right to enforcement should the sail flag protrude in the road in any manner.



16.15 Examples of Recycling Bins,
<https://www.halfpricebanners.com/value-feather-flags>

4.11 Directional monoliths / Totem signs are permitted as an organised assembly indicating a number of amenities or businesses within a community, this being a local council, a business park, Industrial Estates etc....

- A total of 10 fingerboard signs can be permitted
- All fingerboard signs shall be uniform in colour
- The total width shall not exceed 1.20m unless the site freely permits
- The totem height shall not exceed 2.50m
- Totems may be dual sided

Materials and colours shall be approved at the discretion of the Authority. No illumination is allowed unless the totem is fixed in pedestrian zones. A single advert is permitted on the totem, which shall occupy less than 30% of the maximum totem face area on each side. Digital boards of the same dimensions as totems may be fixed in pedestrian zones. These may also be interactive.



16.16 Examples of Totem,
<https://www.fs-signs.co.uk/>

4.12 Banners are considered as temporary signs and may only be permitted under specific circumstances, which are to be considered by the Authority on case by case bases. Banners shall not advertise any products or commercial outlet but shall only be event specific (for example for civic and non-profit events). Banners shall not in any way obstruct visibility nor completely obscure the structure to which they are fixed.

Banners are to be removed by owner within 24 hours from the ending of event.



16.17 Examples of Banner,
<https://twitter.com/>

4.13 Collapsible delineator posts are only used for delineation, separation and guidance purposes and should not be considered as a protective measure.

Such Collapsible delineator posts should always have a reflective strip and no advertising is permitted onto these delineator posts.



16.18 Examples of Collapsible delineator posts on footway,
<https://jackwinsafety.en.made-in-china.com/>



16.19 Examples of Collapsible delineator posts on carriageway,
<https://www.jaybro.com.au/>

4.14 Wheel / Car Stoppers wheel stopper are physical barriers installed at parking spaces in order to deter potentially problematic vehicle movement. It is important to emphasize that these devices do not function as a protective safeguard against moving vehicles. The main purpose of a wheel stopper simply is to serve as a physical signal to the driver that no additional forward movement is advised. For example, when a slowly-moving vehicle comes into contact with the wheel stops, the driver knows that any further forward movement could lead to a physically damaging interaction or that the vehicle is protruding on a footway.

Bus Stoppers are used for the same purpose.

In extreme circumstances, metal or concrete stoppers may be considered. Stoppers must always have a retroreflective strip. No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.20 Examples of wheel stopper used in parking area,
<https://www.bollardstreet.com/>

4.15 Armadillos are used to segregate cycling infrastructure from vehicular traffic. These are bolted into the ground and spaced out so that cyclists can enter or exit the cycle lanes as needed but emergency vehicles can also drive over them during emergency and life-threatening situations.



16.21 Examples of wheel stopper used in parking area,
<https://www.gov.uk/>

4.16 Inflatables of any kind are not allowed in roads, they may be permitted in private zones, subject to permits from relevant authorities.



16.22 Examples of inflatable in road,
<https://airadpromotions.com/>

4.17 Road Mirrors of the convex type are installed for the purposes of aiding access to and from a site. Mirrors shall be approved under the following criteria :

- The safety and efficiency of the road network will not be unduly compromised,
- A mirror will only be approved if it is impossible to improve sight distances by some other, practical means, and it will be angled in such a way that is appropriate and maximum visibility is obtained,
- Glare and reflections from vehicle headlights and sunlight will be considered,
- Reliance on road mirrors in roads which have a speed of > than 60km/h is not desired,
- Mirror support may be cranked in order not to inhibit footpath accessibility.
- Mirrors should be fixed at a clear height of 2.40m from ground /finished footpath level and may be of size 300mm – 900mm diameter depending on the site location.

No advertisements are allowed on this type of furniture when placed in roads.



16.23 Example of road mirror,
<https://www.123rf.com/>

Other measures or furniture may be proposed, and these will be considered by the Authority on a case by case basis, based on the general requirements of this policy and guidelines document.