



ASK A TROOPER

IS IT LEGAL TO CHANGE LANES IN AREAS WHERE THE LANES ARE SEPARATED BY SOLID WHITE LANE LINES?

We can all think of these areas where we travel each day. In the City of Grand Rapids, the lanes through our infamous S-curve are separated by solid white lane lines. For those who live along the lake shore, they might be thinking of US31 at the Grand Haven draw bridge. While most of our questions can be answered directly from our Michigan Vehicle Code, there are some things that require us to look into our Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD).

The Michigan vehicle code has adopted the MMUTCD through MCL [257.608](#) which tells us what kind of traffic control devices are needed and where they need to be placed. Below is an excerpt from Section 3D.02(F) of the MMUTCD.

- 1. A wide solid double white lane line where crossing is prohibited.**
- 2. A wide solid single white lane line where crossing is discouraged.**
- 3. A wide broken single white lane line where crossing is permitted.**
- 4. A wide dotted single white lane line where crossing is permitted for any vehicle to perform a right-turn maneuver**

A solid white line is there as an advisory in areas where changing lanes is discouraged, however it is not a violation to change lanes across a solid white lane line separating lanes for traffic traveling in the same direction.