

## CHANNELIZATION

The direction of traffic flow at intersections to definite path, by means of traffic markings, islands or other means is known as channelization.

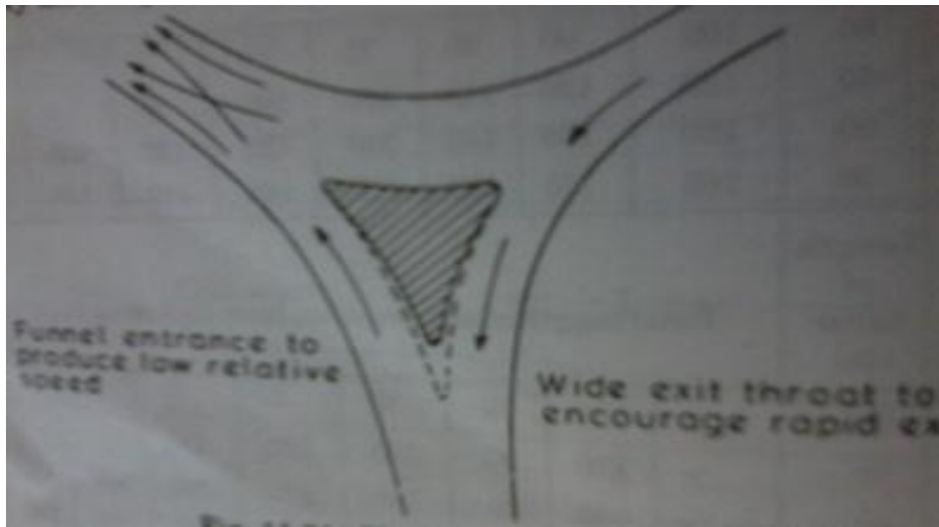
A channelized intersection is one which traffic is directed into definite paths by islands and markings.

An unchannelised intersection, on the other hand, is one without islands for directing traffic into definite paths. An unchannelised intersection is the most dangerous and inefficient.

### Channelization Serves the following Purposes:

#### 1. *Separation of conflicts*

To diminish the number of possible vehicle conflicts, to reduce the possible area of conflicts in the carriage way and to present drivers with only one decision at a time.

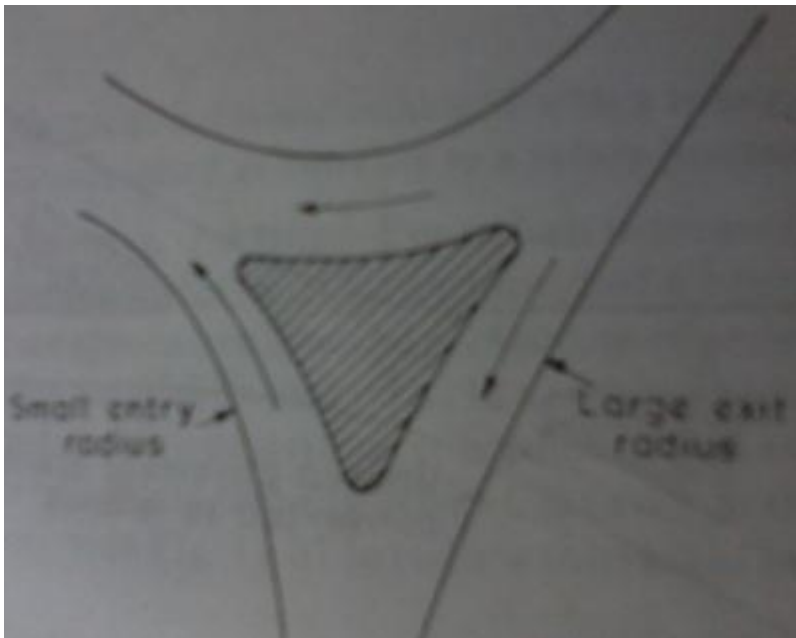


#### 2. *Control of angle of conflicts*

Small angles of crossing cause severe accidents if they occur. Severity is reduced if the angle of conflict is controlled.

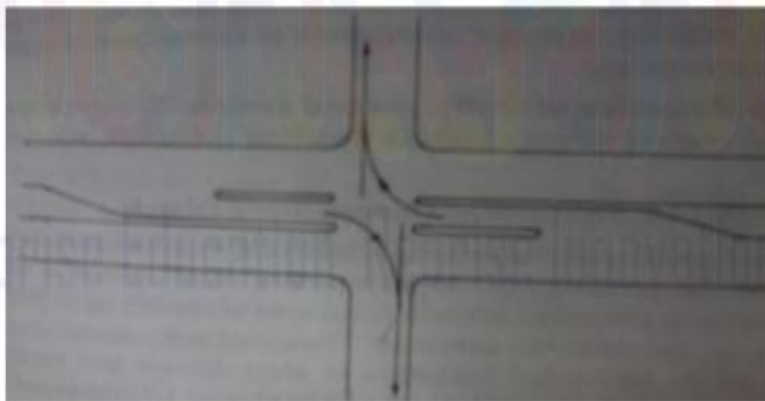
#### 3. *Control of speed*

To reduce the speed of traffic entering the intersection & increase the speed of traffic leaving the intersection, bending or funneling by suitable channelization techniques is resorted to, vide figs.



#### 4. Protection of traffic for leaving / crossing the main traffic stream

This is exemplified by the separate storage pockets for right turning traffic at an intersection & the adjacent island, vide fig.

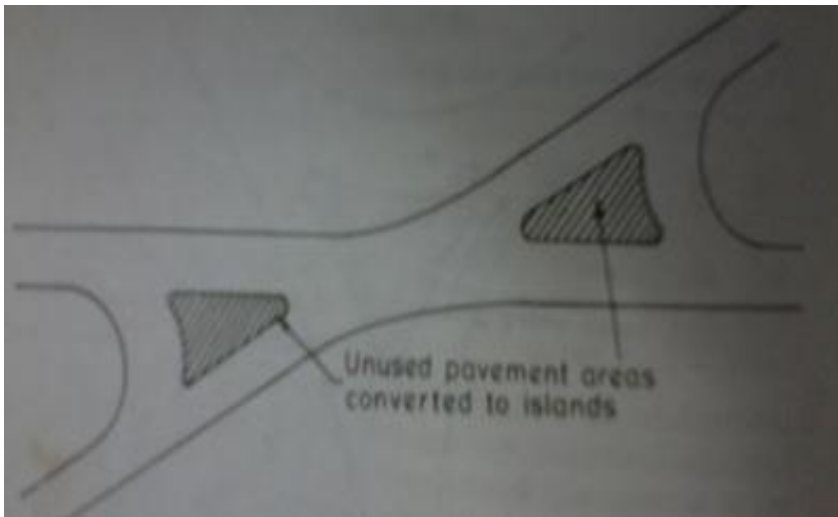


#### 5. Protection of pedestrians

To provide a haven or refuge for pedestrians b/w traffic flows. A channelizing island such as in fig serves as a refuge & makes the crossing much safer.

#### 6. Elimination of excessive intersectional areas

Intersections with large corner radii & those at oblique angles have large paved areas, which permit & encourage hazardous uncontrolled vehicle movements. If these unused paved areas are converted into channelizing islands, orderly movement results & hazards are reduced vide fig.



*7. Blockage of prohibited movements*

To support regulations by making improper movements or encroachments impossible or inconvenient.

*8. Location of traffic control devices*

To provide space for traffic control devices such as direction indicators, reflectors, signs, etc.