

MIXED USE STREETS



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CONER RADII

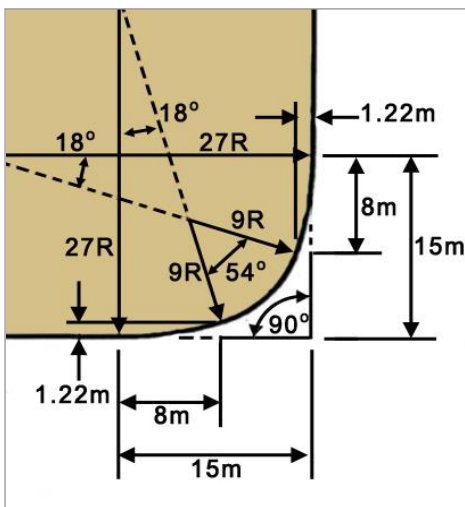
Street corner designed for pedestrians to cross in safety and comfort need not be determined by the path of the rear wheels of a bus or lorry



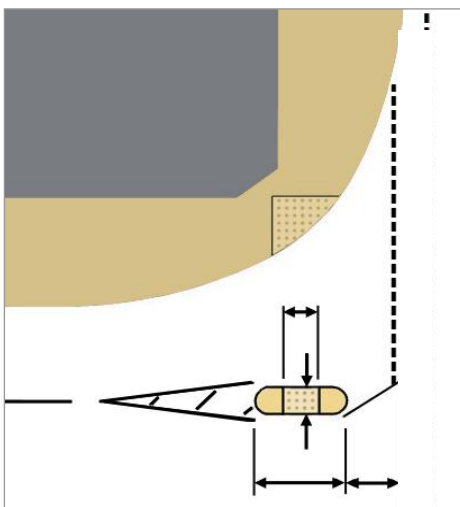
Drivers turn without slowing very much



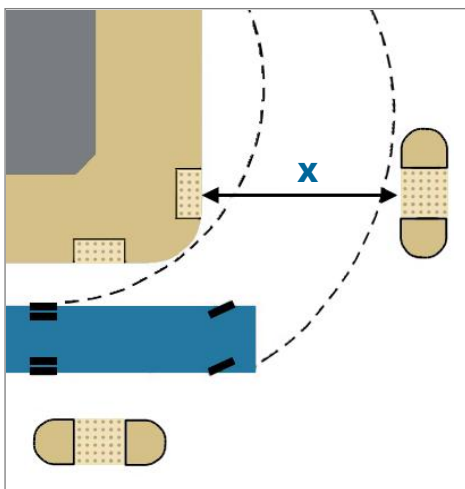
Pedestrians manage as best they can



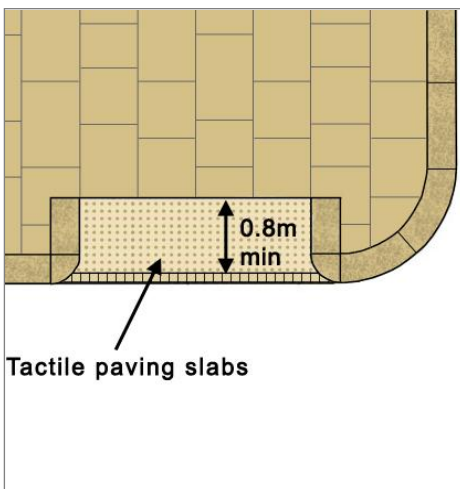
The complexity of compound curved kerbs



The result is an uncomfortable place to cross



Vehicles need enough space to turn



Tactile paving is more useful at a tight radius

ROADS DESIGNED FOR VEHICLES

At nearly every street corner the layout and geometry of the kerb puts pedestrians at a disadvantage. The wide sweep of the kerb helps drivers to get round the corner with the least amount of effort and often without needing to slow down very much.

Pedestrians have to cross the road where it is at its widest. They almost have to have eyes at the back of their heads. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable.

Tactile surfaces become confusing and ugly triangles.

TRADITIONAL ROAD STANDARDS

Much of the official advice on road design concentrates exclusively on the efficient movement of traffic. The radii of kerbs at street corners were recommended to be wide to allow for the efficient turning of large vehicles. Much effort was taken to calculate the optimum curve at the kerb that was considered necessary.

Pedestrians were expected to walk some 15 meters away from the corner to find a safe place to cross. Understandably they prefer to cross in a direct line, despite the inconvenience and danger. New thinking is to give pedestrians a more direct route.

NEW THINKING

Road junctions can be designed to cater both, for the efficient movement of traffic and for pedestrians to cross easily. With sufficient road space (left, X) large vehicles can turn at a kerb with a sharp radius.

The tactile paving at right angles to the road is easy to use and tidy.

A tight corner encourages drivers to take more care when turning.

The result is a street corner which is safe, convenient and comfortable to cross.