



## Curb Extension



### What is a curb extension?

» A curb extension permanently widens an existing sidewalk using concrete at intersections or midway along a street. It may include planting, street furniture, or serve as a bus stop.

### What are its purpose and benefits?

- » Visually and physically narrows the street to create a shorter crossing for people walking.
- » Increases the visibility of people walking. One study showed that people driving more frequently yielded to people walking, which reduced the potential for crashes between people walking and people driving.<sup>2</sup>
- » Slows vehicles approaching intersections<sup>3</sup> and encourages slower and more careful turns.
- » Provides more space between people walking and people driving.
- » Increases available space for amenities like street furniture, benches, planting, and street trees.<sup>1</sup>

### Where should this safety tool be applied?

- » Intersections where there are crash patterns involving turning vehicles and people walking.
- » Midblock locations, also known as “chokers”
- » Intersections between major streets and neighborhood streets to indicate to people driving that they are transitioning to a slower speed street.<sup>1</sup>
- » Bus stops, also known as bus bulbs.<sup>1</sup> Bus bulbs allow the bus to stop while still in the travel lane, improving route efficiency.

### What else should I know about curb extensions?

- » May involve the loss of parking and may be expensive if it requires utility relocation or accommodations need to be made for water drainage.
- » Can only be installed where full-time on-street parking or excess street width exists.

### Costs



### Timeframe



### Effectiveness



**30%**  
 CRASH REDUCTION FACTOR  
 Curb Extensions have been shown to reduce crashes by 30%.<sup>4</sup>

Notes: 1. *Curb Extensions*. National Association of City Transportation Officials. 2. Oregon Department of Transportation, Research Unit. 3. *Curb Extensions*. Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. 4. *Intersection Crash Reduction Factors*. Michigan Department of Transportation.