



Pedestrian Refuge Island



What is a pedestrian refuge island?

» A concrete median designed for a person walking across a street to pause between directions of traffic with protection from moving vehicles.

What are its purpose and benefits?

- » Allows people walking to cross only one direction of traffic at a time.¹
- » Reduces the distance in which people crossing are exposed to traffic.
- » Gives people a place to stand in the middle of wide crossings.²

Where should this safety tool be applied?

- » Recommended where people walking must cross at least two lanes of traffic in one direction (on a 1-way or 2-way street), but may be implemented on smaller streets where space permits.²
- » At uncontrolled marked crosswalks (no traffic signals or stop signs to control crossing traffic).
- » Near transit stops or other sites with large volumes of people walking.³
- » Areas with crash history or observed conflicts between people driving and walking.⁴

What else should I know about pedestrian refuge islands?

- » Can only be installed on a street where there is sufficient space, such as a center left turn lane or painted island.
- » May require elimination of an existing left-turn lane or modification of existing medians.

Costs



Timeframe



Effectiveness



46%
CRASH REDUCTION FACTOR
 Pedestrian Refuge Islands have been shown to reduce crashes by an average of 46% at marked crossings.⁵

Notes: 1. *Crossing Islands*. Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. 2. National Association of City Transportation Officials. 3. *Unsignalized Intersection Improvement Guide: Provide a Pedestrians Refuge Island*. Institute of Transportation Engineers. 4. *Proven Safety Countermeasures: Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas*. Federal Highway Administration. 5. *Desktop reference for crash reduction factors*. Federal Highway Administration.