

# Lateral Shift

A lateral shift is a realignment of an otherwise straight street that causes the travel lanes to shift in one direction. Opposing traffic is separated by using a raised median island. The horizontal deflection a reduction in vehicle speeds.

## Typical Use

- Lateral shifts can be used on local and collector roads and is sometimes advisable for arterial roadways.
- Lateral shifts are used at midblock locations on two-way roadways.
- The typical maximum speed limit is 35 mph.

## Design Features

- A raised median island is used to separate opposing traffic and is combined with raised islands on the approaches of the lateral shift.

## Further Considerations

### *Advantages*

- Reduces vehicle speeds.
- The median island reduces the potential for a head on collision during the lateral shift.
- Can be used in combination with on-street parking.

### *Disadvantages*

- May require the removal of on-street parking.

## Materials & Maintenance

Landscaping within the medians may require landscape maintenance if provided.

