

Pedestrian Refuge Islands

Pedestrian refuge islands provide a safe area for pedestrians to wait while crossing multiple lanes of traffic. Refuge islands may be provided at intersections or at mid-block crossings. Pedestrian refuge islands reduce pedestrian exposure and reduce the crossing distance.



Typical Use

- Pedestrian refuge islands should be considered along major pedestrian routes and in areas with high pedestrian activity.
- Pedestrian refuge islands can be used at signalized and unsignalized intersection.
- Pedestrian refuge islands can be used on roadways with any common urban speed limit.

Design Features

- The minimum refuge island width is 6 feet, and the preferred width is 10 feet.

Further Considerations

Advantages

- Landscaping opportunities exist within the curbed median refuge island.
- Provides a protected space for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the street.
- Narrows the roadway and may reduce vehicular speeds.

Disadvantages

- Refuge islands require additional space that may not exist within the existing curb to curb width.

Materials & Maintenance

Signage and pavement markings shall be designed per local standards.

