

Raised Median

A raised median is a raised area separating different lanes, traffic directions, or roadways within a street. The raised median can either be curb height of 12-24 inches high, where appropriate. Raised median widths can vary and can range from narrow raised concrete islands to intensively landscaped raised medians. Medians have a traffic calming effect by reducing the open feel of a street.

Typical Use

- A raised median is typically used to separate traffic directions and calms traffic by narrowing the roadway and limiting left turn movements.
- Raised medians are typically used urban streets with speed limits up to 45 mph.

Design Features

- Raised medians should be a minimum of 7 feet wide to provide detectable warnings and refuge to pedestrians at crossings.
- Raised medians usually extend beyond the crosswalk at intersections.
- Raised medians can have a walkable path across the raised median crossing to provide a pedestrian refuge.

Further Considerations

Advantages

- Reduces risk of left-turn collisions
- Discourages mid-block crossing when used with fencing or planting.
- Can improve pedestrian crossing safety by implementing a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the intersection.

Disadvantages

- Design must account for emergency vehicle access.

Materials & Maintenance

Raised medians can be constructed with a combination of asphalt, concrete, pavers, and landscaping. Signage may be needed on the median as well as maintain landscaping.

