



# Close a Median Opening

*Permanently blocking or removing the existing median opening to eliminate certain movements at the intersection (e.g., left turns or through movements to and from the minor road). These may be locations where it is impractical to improve sight distance or where it is inappropriate to install a traffic signal.*

## Targeted Crash Types

- Right-angle
- Opposing left turn
- Rear-end (major road)

## Problems Addressed

- Excessive intersection conflicts
- Poor operational performance

## Conditions Addressed

- Crash history or observed conflicts involving left-turning vehicles.
- Insufficient gaps in mainline traffic for left-turns from minor or major road or through movements from minor road.
- Crash history or observed conflicts involving vehicles in median.

## Considerations

- Ensure that alternative routes are available and can safely accommodate the diverted traffic.
- Stakeholders should be involved during planning stages, especially adjacent businesses or residents who may be affected by the access restriction.
- Consult with elected representatives and emergency responders during planning stages.
- Ensure the median closure is obvious and is visible to motorists through signing or other means.
- Provide accessible design for pedestrian and bicyclist crossings through median that will not allow motor vehicles to pass.

## Industry Standard

*MUTCD*

[Section 2B.18: Movement Prohibition Signs](#)

*AASHTO Green Book*

Section 2.5: Access Control and Access Management

## Other Resources

[Access Management in the Vicinity of Intersections, FHWA](#)

[NCHRP 500 Volume 5: A Guide for Addressing Unsignalized Intersections](#)

## Select Examples

[Filmore St. & Wade Ave., Raleigh, NC](#)

[Commonwealth Dr. & Eastwood Rd., Wilmington, NC](#)

