



# Provide a Pedestrian Refuge Island

*Installation of raised island within a roadway that provides an area for pedestrians to wait before crossing the remainder of the roadway, allowing pedestrians to make a two-stage crossing.*



Source: Lee Engineering, LLC

The refuge island allows pedestrians to make this multilane crossing in two stages.



Source: VHB

This refuge island aids pedestrians crossing the two-lane urban arterial.



Source: VHB

Pedestrian crossing this minor road approach can take refuge in the channelizing island.

## Targeted Crash Types

- Pedestrian
- Bicyclist

## Problems Addressed

- Vehicle conflicts with non-motorists

## Conditions Addressed

- Crash history or observed conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.
- Heavy pedestrian traffic crossing the major road.
- Crossings that span multiple lanes of traffic.
- Poor visibility between oncoming drivers and pedestrians waiting to cross the road.
- Reduced exposure for crossing pedestrians is desired.
- Observed difficulty of pedestrians finding safe gaps in traffic to cross road.

## Considerations

- Island design should accommodate pedestrians with disabilities and should provide pedestrians with a clear path through the island.
- FHWA recommends 4 feet as minimum width (and 8 feet as preferred minimum width).
- Include appropriate signing and pavement markings to make the island and crossing visible to motorists.
- Appropriate detectable warning features (i.e., dome detectible warning strips of contrasting color) should be incorporated at each interface of the island and roadway surface to serve persons with visual impairment.

## Industry Standard

MUTCD

[Section 3I.06: Pedestrian Islands and Medians](#)

AASHTO Green Book

Section 9.6.3: Islands

## Other Resources

[Crossing Islands, PEDSAFE](#)

[NCHRP 562 & TCRP 112: Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Intersections](#)

[Median Handbook, FDOT](#)

[FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures](#)

## Select Examples

[Myrtle Ave. & Sixth St., Eureka, CA](#)

[Marshland Rd. & Mathews Dr., Hilton Head Island, SC](#)

