



Medians and Partial Medians



DESCRIPTION:

A median is a raised curb island placed at the center of a roadway. Medians are typically concrete and may include landscaping to provide additional visual enhancement. They provide physical separation between on-coming traffic lanes, narrow the travel lanes, and can create the perception of a narrower roadway. They can also act as a refuge for pedestrians in certain applications.

APPLICATION:

Medians may be used for speed reduction, turn restrictions, enhanced safety, or a mix of all three. Medians are best suited for wide residential streets with a history of high speeds to narrow the travel lanes, interrupt sight distances, and reduce pedestrian crossing distances.

Advantages

- May help reduce travel speed
- Separates opposing traffic lanes
- Shortens pedestrian crossings
- Can improve safety both for vehicles and pedestrians

Disadvantages

- Potential for increased maintenance if landscaped
- Medians are not as effective as speed humps or traffic circles in slowing speeds
- May interrupt emergency access and operations
- May interrupt driveway/side street access and result in U-turns at the end of medians
- Can create drainage issues

Effectiveness Scorecard

	Speed	
	Volume	
	Cut-through	
	Crashes	
	Emergency Vehicle	
	Pedestrian	
	Bicycle	
	Noise	
	Cost	\$\$\$

Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Not Applicable



Quick Glance

