Raised center median/pedestrian refuge island

Definition
Center median refuge islands are raised barrier areas placed in the center of the roadway separating opposing lanes of traffic, through which a crosswalk passes.

Objective
To provide a place for pedestrians crossing a street to wait safely for a suitable gap in traffic or for the WALK phase of a pedestrian signal.

Advantage
Enables pedestrians to focus on crossing one side of a roadway, with traffic moving in one direction only, at a time.
Divides crossings in shorter segments.
Can improve visibility of pedestrians.
May help slow vehicle speeds by making the roadway appear narrower.
Can serve access management goals, such as preventing or limiting left-turns.
Can help beautify streets with plantings and landscaping.

Challenge
Can complicate snow plowing/removal.
May require additional ROW and/or narrowing of vehicle lanes.

Resources
Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, Raised Medians http://www.walkinginfo.org/engineering/crossings-crosswalks.cfm.

Select Treatments | Intersections and crossing locations