Raised ‘pork chop’ pedestrian refuge island/right-turn slip lane

Definition
Pork chop islands are triangular raised islands placed between a right-turn slip lane and through-travel lanes. They channelize vehicular traffic and provide a refuge for pedestrians crossing a roadway, where they can wait for a suitable gap in traffic or for the WALK phase of a pedestrian signal. Current best practice and recommended design for curb radius consists of a two-center compound curve design.

Objective
To channelize right-turning vehicles in a manner that keeps turning speeds low, allows for good sightlines for pedestrians and for drivers of turning vehicles, and minimizes exposed crossing distance for pedestrians.

Advantage
Balances need for larger turning radii with pedestrian safety and mobility goals.

Allows pedestrians to focus on crossing one portion of a roadway at a time.

Divides crossing distance into shorter lengths and provides a safe place for pedestrians to stand when they do not have sufficient time to complete a crossing.

Improves visibility and sightlines for pedestrians and for drivers.

Improves signal timing and overall operations for intersection.

Challenge
Added obstruction in roadway; can be an obstacle to snow plowing and removal.

Visually impaired pedestrians may be unaware of the presence of refuge islands and find the accessible pedestrian way difficult to follow.

May require additional ROW.

Subsequent slip lanes, unless properly designed, may create turning radii that encourage drivers to speed around corners.

Resources

