Choker

Description:
- Curb extension is a lateral horizontal extension of the sidewalk into the street, resulting in a narrower roadway section.
- If located at an intersection, it is called a corner extension or a bulb-out.
- If located midblock, it is referred to as a choker.
- Narrowing of a roadway through the use of curb extensions or roadside islands.

Applications:
- Can be created by a pair of curb extensions, often landscaped.
- Encourages lower travel speeds by reducing motorist margin of error.
- One-lane choker forces two-way traffic to take turns going through the pinch point.
- If the pinch point is angled relative to the roadway, it is called an angled choker.
- Can be located at any spacing desired.
- May be suitable for a mid-block crosswalk.
- Appropriate for arterials, collectors, or local streets.

Design/Installation Issues:
- Only applicable for mid-block locations.
- Can be used on a one-lane one-way and two-lane two-way street.
- Most easily installed on a closed-section road (i.e. curb and gutter).
- Applicable with or without dedicated bicycle facilities.
- Applicable on streets with, and can protect, on-street parking.
- Appropriate for any speed limit.
- Appropriate along bus routes.
- Typical width of 6 to 8 feet; offset from through traffic by approximately 1.5 feet.
- Locations near streetlights are preferable.
- Length of choker island should be at least 20 feet.

Potential Impacts:
- Encourages lower speeds by funneling it through the pinch point.
- Can result in shorter pedestrian crossing distances if a mid-block crossing is provided.
- May force bicyclists and motor vehicles to share the travel lane.
- May require some parking removal.
- May require relocation of drainage features and utilities.

Emergency Response Issues:
- Retains sufficient width for ease of use for emergency vehicles.

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):
- Between $1,500 and $20,000, depending on length and width of barriers.