Median Island

Description:
- Raised island located along the street centerline that narrows the travel lanes at that location
- Also called median diverter, intersection barrier, intersection diverter, and island diverter

Applications:
- For use on arterial, collector, or local roads
- Can often double as a pedestrian/bicycle refuge islands if a cut in the island is provided along a marked crosswalk, bike facility, or shared-use trail crossing
- If placed through an intersection, considered a median barrier


Design/Installation Issues:
- Potential legal issues associated with blocking a public street (e.g., business or emergency access)
- Barriers may consist of landscaped islands, mountable facilities, walls, gates, side-by-side bollards, or any other obstruction that leave an opening smaller than the width of a passenger car
- Can be placed mid-block or on the approach to an intersection
- Typically installed on a closed-section roadway (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Can be applied on roads with or without sidewalks and/or dedicated bicycle facilities
- Maximum appropriate speed limits vary by locale
- Typically not appropriate near sites that attract large combination trucks

Potential Impacts:
- May impact access to properties adjacent to islands
- No significant impact on vehicle speeds beyond the island
- Little impact on traffic volume diversion
- Safety can be improved without substantially increasing delay
- Shortens pedestrian crossing distances
- Bicyclists may have to share vehicular travel lanes near the island
- May require removal of some on-street parking
- May require relocation of drainage features and utilities

Emergency Response Issues:
- Appropriate along primary emergency vehicle roads or street that provides access to hospitals/emergency medical services

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):
- Cost between $1,500 and $10,000, depending on length and width of island