



**Center Island Narrowings... (midblock medians, median slowpoints, median chockers)**

A center island narrowing is a raised island located along the centerline of a street that narrow the travel lanes at that location. Center island narrowings are often landscaped to provide a visual amenity. Placed at the entrance to a neighborhood, and often combined with textured pavement, they are often called "gateway islands." Fitted with a gap to allow pedestrians to walk through at a crosswalk, they are often called "pedestrian refuges."

Center Island Narrowings are good for entrances to residential areas, and wide streets where pedestrians need to cross.

**Advantages:**

- | Center Island Narrowings increase pedestrian safety
- | If designed well, they can have positive aesthetic value
- | They reduce traffic volumes

**Disadvantages:**

- | Their speed-reduction effect is somewhat limited by the absence of any vertical or horizontal deflection
- | They may require elimination of some on-street parking

**Effectiveness:**

- | Average of 7% decrease in the 85th percentile travel speeds, or from an average of 34.9 to 32.3 miles per hour (combined average for various narrowing measures, taken from a sample of 7 sites)

**Similar Measures:**

- | If a roadway is narrowed out from the curbs at an intersection, you have a [Neckdown](#)

**Cost Estimate(s):**

- | \$8,000 - 15,000 (Portland, OR), \$5,000 (Sarasota, FL)



**Montgomery County, MD** - This center island narrowing is somewhat long. Visible on the pavement is the previous centerline before it was angled to guide motorists to the right of the island.



**Portland, OR** - This center island narrowing is combined with two crosswalks.



**Portland, OR** - This center island narrowing has hardscape but minimal live landscaping, minimizing maintenance costs.



**Ft. Lauderdale, FL** - This center island narrowing is combined with Textured Pavement to provide a gateway measure.

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