



RAISED INTERSECTION

Raised intersections create a safe, slow speed crossing at low volume intersections. They are created by raising the level of the roadway to the same level as the sidewalk. Raised intersections are a similar concept to speed tables but are applied to the entire intersection.

Raised intersections physically change an intersection to make it difficult for drivers to operate at unsafe speeds. They also improve drivers' awareness of pedestrian crossings and define locations where pedestrians are expected. Raised intersections increase visibility between drivers and pedestrians by raising pedestrians in the motorists' field of view and giving pedestrians an elevated vantage point from which to look for oncoming traffic. They can create pedestrian crossings that are more comfortable, convenient, and accessible since transitioning between the sidewalk and roadway does not require negotiating a curb ramp.

USE

- Raised intersections are appropriate in areas of high pedestrian demand.
- Raised intersections and crossings can be used as gateway treatments to signal to drivers when there are transitions to a slower speed environment that is more pedestrian-oriented.
- Care should be taken to maintain direct routes across intersections aligning pedestrian desire lines on either side of the sidewalk.
- Raised intersections are generally not used in areas with high traffic volumes, along major transit or EMS routes, and multilane streets.

DESIGN

- Raised crossings and intersections require detectable warnings at the curb line for persons with visual disabilities.
- Designs should ensure proper drainage. Raised intersections can simplify drainage inlet placement by directing water away from the intersection. If the intersecting streets are sloped, catch basins should be placed on the high side of the intersection at the base of the ramp.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Raised intersections should be considered in school zones and locations where pedestrian visibility and motorist yielding have been identified as concerns.
- Design speeds and emergency vehicle routes must be considered when designing approach ramps.
- High-visibility or textured paving materials can be used to enhance the contrast between the raised crossing or intersection and the surrounding roadway.
- Installation of raised crossings and intersections may affect snow removal operations. Snow plow operators should be adequately warned and trained.

REFERENCES

- NACTO: Urban Street Design Guide, 2013
 - Intersections: Minor Intersections
 - Raised Intersections <http://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/intersections/minor-intersections/raised-intersections/>
- AASHTO: Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, 2004
 - Section 2.6.2: Traffic-Calming Methods
 - ITE/FHWA: Traffic Calming: State of the Practice, 1999
 - Chapter 3: Toolbox of Traffic Calming Measures
 - Vertical Measures <http://library.ite.org/pub/48b037de-a555-47f5-2651-bb412d17bab5>