

Pedestrian Refuge Islands Safety Audit – Mid-Block Crossing Options and Issues

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ABSTRACT

Many jurisdictions have made efforts to be increasingly responsive to the safety and security of pedestrians in the roadway environment. There are a number of features that aid pedestrians to cross major roads that have been implemented as a result. The use of refuge islands on their own, or in conjunction with pedestrian crossovers, has been considered as two methods of enhancing safety in the City of Toronto. Over the past 10 years, approximately 60 islands have been implemented for these purposes in Toronto.

The City of Toronto has initiated studies to investigate the operation of these features. This paper will provide preliminary results of these efforts. It will describe the operational benefits, implementation considerations, safety issues, and design options for the implementation of pedestrian islands.