

Raised crosswalks and intersections

Definition

Raised crosswalks are elevated above roadway pavement in the form of an elongated speed hump with a flat section in the middle and at-grade with adjacent sidewalks. A raised intersection is a plateau covering the entire intersection, including crosswalks, on level with surrounding sidewalks, with ramps on all vehicular approaches.

Objective

To control and calm traffic speeds approaching and then traversing a crosswalk and/or intersection, and thereby improve the safety of pedestrians at these locations.

Advantage

Reduced traffic speeds at crosswalks and intersections.

Increased crossing convenience for pedestrians (since the grade change is eliminated).

May support urban design, streetscaping, and placemaking goals.

Challenge

Boundary between the sidewalk and street is not readily detectable by visually impaired pedestrians unless tactile cues are installed on sidewalk at each end of the crosswalk.

Cost of installation.

Resources

FHWA: The Effects of Traffic Calming Measures on Pedestrian and Motorist Behavior <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/pedbike/0104.pdf>.

FHWA: Toolbox of Countermeasures and their Potential Effectiveness for Pedestrian Crashes http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/ped_tctpepc/ped_tctpepc.pdf.

PEDSAFE: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System – Raised Pedestrian Crossings http://www.walkinginfo.org/pedsafe/pedsafe_curb1.cfm?CM_NUM=27.

PEDSAFE: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System – Raised Intersections http://www.walkinginfo.org/pedsafe/pedsafe_curb1.cfm?CM_NUM=26.

ITE Traffic Calming Measures—Raised Intersection <http://www.ite.org/traffic/raised.asp>.

ITE Traffic Calming Measures—Speed table <http://www.ite.org/traffic/table.asp>.

NCHRP Report 500 — A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Pedestrians http://safety.transportation.org/htmlguides/peds/description_of_strat.htm#91c3 (Sections 9.1.C2 and C3).



Images (clockwise from main image):

Example of a raised crosswalk.
Source: Dan Burden.

Additional examples:
Sources: Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; citymaus, Flickr; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden.