

# CHICANES/ ROADWAY CURVATURE

## Purpose

Slow motor vehicles speeds by diverting the path of travel.

## Description

Horizontal treatments to restrict vehicle movement and reduce speeds. Chicanes are often made of curb extensions or islands that create “S” curves along a roadway.

## Estimated Cost



## Applicable Locations

Most effective at midblock locations.

## Applicable Street Types

- Downtown Boulevard
- Downtown Street
- Boulevard
- Town Center Boulevard
- Town Center Street
- Neighborhood Connector

- Neighborhood Street
- Neighborhood Yield Street
- Industrial Street
- County Connector
- County Road

## Safety Benefits

- Improves speed limit compliance.
- Certain designs increase the amount of sidewalk width, buffer width, or both on corridors.

## Expected Crash Reduction

An estimate has not yet been determined; initial research indicates this treatment may be effective at increasing driver yielding and improving pedestrian safety.<sup>14</sup>

## Design Guidance

- Interim treatments use striping and flex posts.
- Permanent treatments use curb extensions or islands and may include vegetation.
- Maintain sight lines by landscaping chicanes with lower shrubs and plants.
- Multiple treatments may be placed on alternating sides of the roadway.
- Drainage and utility location should be considered when implementing.

- Additional signing or pavement markings may be needed to ensure drivers are aware of the bend in the roadway.

### Considerations

- Vehicles and bicyclists must carefully maneuver around fixed objects. Traffic may be slowed when vehicles attempt to pass bicyclists.
- If drainage impacts are a concern, curb extensions may be designed as edge islands with a 1–2-foot gap from the curb (see top right image).
- Mini-roundabouts should be considered at intersections of local roads.
- May reduce on-street parking depending on the design.
- Emergency vehicle access must be maintained.

### Systemic Safety Potential

- Best suited as a spot treatment.

### Additional Information

- PEDSAFE: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System
- NACTO Urban Street Design Guide

