

Attachment B – Sample Pages from the *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Report*

Raised Intersections

Each intersection along the Grand Connection route can act as an interruption to the continuous flow of pedestrians and cyclists. They also present an opportunity to serve as important gateways and nodes to key locations such as the Downtown Park, Bellevue Transit Center, and the Meydenbauer Bay Park. As an effort to highlight their role as a gateway, and to also unify the pedestrian and cyclist connectivity and flow, the intersections were identified as a key cohesive design strategy that can improve the overall experience, aesthetic, safety, and sense of arrival.

To accomplish these goals the recommendation has been made to raise each intersection along the route to be flush with the adjacent curbs and sidewalks. The City has planned to raise several of the existing intersections, and by raising all intersections on the route it will create a unified strategy.

The raised intersections would be accomplished by following the principles of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) recommendations. Raised intersections hold a variety of benefits including reducing speeds of drivers exceeding the speed limit and encouraging awareness and yielding to pedestrians.

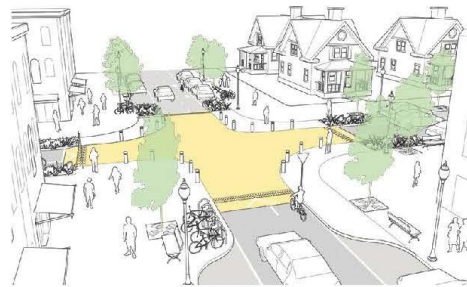


▲ Raised Intersection Locations - Image by Balmeri Associates

Combined with other elements such as bollards, raised intersections create a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians while causing minimal to no interruption of vehicle movements.

The raised intersections also create an opportunity to establish an aesthetic character that reflects the surrounding context and establishes a continuous aesthetic along the entire Grand Connection route. This aesthetic enhancement could be achieved through paving patterns and color, and through the application of artistic treatment.

The recommendation is to create a material language that complements the selected pedestrian paving, while providing flexibility for artistic treatments such as thermal plastic coverings and temporary painting that can be applied for seasonal, special event, and temporary opportunities.



▲ Standard Raised Intersection - Image by North American City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

Did you know? Raised Intersections:



85th percentile
vehicle speed
decreases by 2 mph



Exposure risk
for pedestrians
decreases by 28%



Estimated **\$1.7**
million saved over
three years in direct
and indirect costs



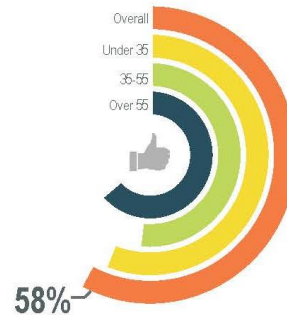
Vehicle **volumes** are
not **affected**

Source: *Pedestrian Safety through a Raised Median and Redesigned Intersections - Plainsboro, New Jersey* by Michael King, 2003 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. http://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/pedestrian_safety_through_raised_median_redesigned_intersections_king.pdf



▲ Example of an Aesthetically Improved Raised Intersection From the Grand Connection Art Survey - Rochester, New York

Art Survey Rating



Next Steps: Raised Intersections

- Explore adopting remaining intersections as part of City's *Downtown Transportation Plan* Exceptional Intersections program.
- Continue to pursue grant funding opportunities such as the 106th Avenue NE intersection project currently in design.
- Develop an aesthetic quality that is either cohesive to the route, or contextually unique through paving strategies, artistic installations, or other methods.