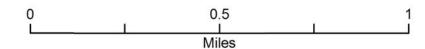


**Seaside Transportation System Plan** 





# **US 101 Turn Lane/Median Elements for Consideration**



#### PEDESTRIAN ISLAND

#### What is it?

A pedestrian island provides pedestrians crossing the street a refuge between opposing directions of traffic. Pedestrians can cross one direction of traffic, stop on the island and wait for a clearing in traffic in the opposite direction, and cross again. Pedestrian refuge islands also alert drivers to the potential of pedestrians crossing, making them more visible, and provide a curbed separation between pedestrians and traffic.

#### What is the benefit?

Pedestrians only need to cross one direction of traffic at a time. They have a curbed buffer from traffic and are more visible to drivers.

#### What is the tradeoff?

Vehicles would not be able to make left turns at the specific place where a pedestrian island is because it is a curbed facility. Placement of pedestrian islands must be made very carefully so pedestrians are not put in conflict with turning vehicles. Travel lanes may need to be realigned to accommodate pedestrian islands.



## **MEDIANS**

#### What is it?

Medians are usually concrete and they restrict left turns and cross-road traffic. Medians can be landscaped, concrete alone, or simply striped on the pavement. Concrete medians can be mountable in select places or overall. Medians can also have special pavers to draw drivers' attention or to indicate a place for pedestrians.

#### What is the benefit?

Since medians restrict left turns and cross-road traffic, they reduce the number of potential conflicts points and turn-related crashes. With fewer vehicles backed up behind left-turning vehicles, the potential for rear-end crashes is reduced. Medians enhance safety and the flow of traffic. Medians channel left turns to specific locations, reducing lines of traffic that build up behind left turning vehicles and improving the overall traffic flow for through vehicles.

### What is the tradeoff?

Depending on the location of the desired turn and the placement of left turn lanes, left turning vehicles may have to travel slightly out of direction. Vehicles would not be able to turn left from any point into a driveway of a business making business access less convenient. Depending on the availability of Right of Way (ROW), the road may need to be widened to accommodate medians.

## **LEFT TURN BAY**

## What is it?

Left turn bays allow drivers to leave the through lane to make left turns using a left turn pocket.

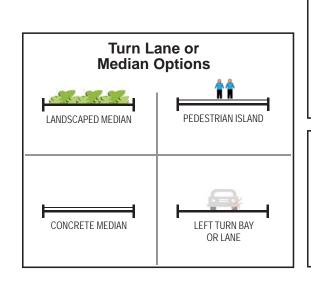
## What is the benefit?

Vehicles turning left would have a safe refuge for left turns. Periodic left turn bays would consolidate left turns to predictable points at safer locations. Left turn bays also benefit vehicle operations, by reducing or eliminating traffic back-ups behind left turning vehicles while improving overall traffic circulation.

## What is the tradeoff?

In order to redirect left turns to safer locations using left turn bays, medians are placed elsewhere to restrict left turns. Depending on the location of the desired turn and the placement of left turn lanes, left turning vehicles may have to travel slightly out of direction. Depending on the availability of Right of Way (ROW), the road may need to be widened to accommodate medians.





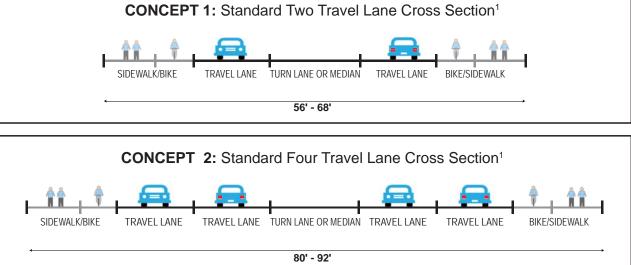


FIGURE 1
US-101 Cross Section Concepts
Under Consideration
Seaside TSP

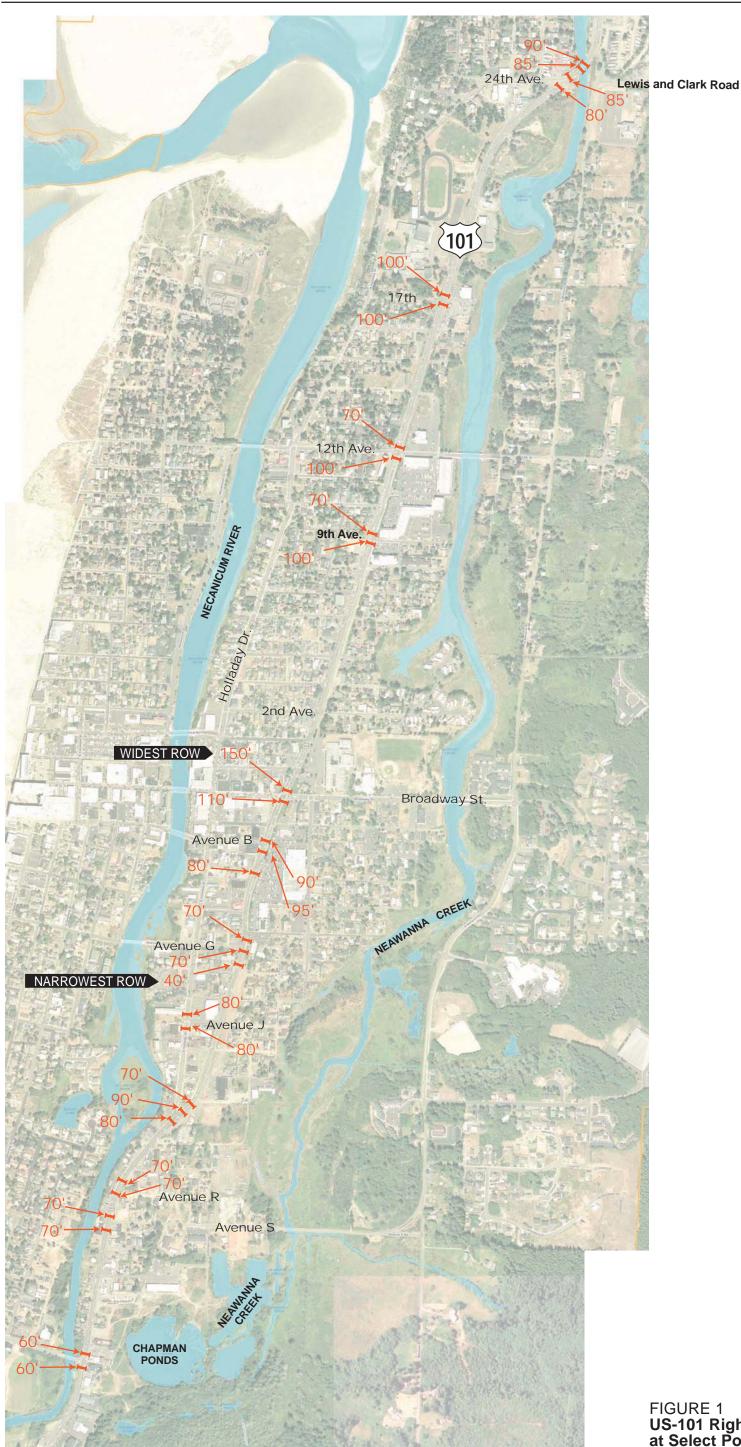


FIGURE 1
US-101 Right-of-Way (ROW) Widths at Select Points (approximate)

Seaside TSP