CITY OF KIRKLAND
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PRE-APPROVED PLANS POLICY

Policy R-3: GUIDELINES FOR TRAFFIC ISLANDS[1]

Visibility	
Signs	Generally follow section 2B-28 of the MUTCD. Use R4-7 KEEP RIGHT signs near the ends of islands. Where there are groups of islands, a single sign at the end of each end of the group is adequate. Intermediate signs may be necessary if a group is intersected by a collector or arterial. When islands are more isolated, signs are placed in the end of each island. Islands such as pedestrian islands that already have a sign near their ends do not need KEEP RIGHT signs. Signs should be placed upstream of any trees on island that would otherwise block driver's views to the signs.
Paint	Yellow traffic paint is placed on the ends of islands. Glass beads are hand cast on the paint to enhance reflectivity. Painting is currently done annually.
Reflectors	Reflectors are normally installed on the pavement in front of islands.
Lighting	No special lighting need be provided simply because an island is installed.
Other Elements	
Placement	Islands are placed on Collectors and Arterials wherever possible. Driveways are not generally closed unless there is a crash problem. A minimum storage of 40 feet is provided for private driveways and the amount of storage provided at multifamily, office and commercial driveways may be greater depending on the driveways' expected left turning volumes. At T-Intersections, islands located on arterial streets should be placed at least 50 feet to the left of the intersecting street. This distance is measured from the island nose to center of the intersecting street. Island ends should be shaped with consideration for, among other things, access and to minimize the need to sweep them by hand.
Size	AASHTO "Green Book" policies should be followed in the sizing of islands. Islands should be at least 100 ft^2 in area. A "shy" distance of at least 12 inches should be provided between the island and edge of the traveled way.
Curb Type	Curbs should be extruded concrete. A desirable section has a base of 10 inches, a top of 5 inches, and is 6 inches tall. Mountable curb is acceptable in special circumstances.
Sight Distance	Stopping sight distance should be available for drivers approaching the island to see a pedestrian entering the roadway. Provision of sight distance may be the control for the type and amount of landscaping that is provided.
Trees, Sod, & Irrigation	Trees and sod should be in each island where appropriate. Trees should not be installed if their presence reduces the safe and reasonable sight distance. Tree type should be selected from an accepted list based on the location and type of island. Tree canopies should be at least 7' above the pavement and installed following Kirkland Pre-approved Plans. When islands are built on existing pavement, underlying pavement should be removed to provide appropriate drainage based on the soil type, tree type and topography of the island surface. All islands with sod and trees should be provided with irrigation that uses standard parts.

[1] The term island is used to refer to both islands and medians.