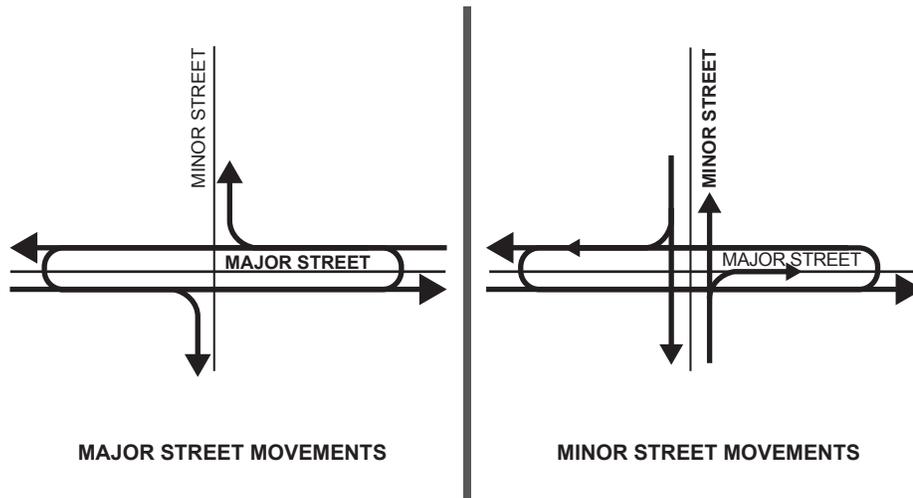




## MEDIAN U-TURN INTERSECTIONS



### COST



### TIME



### IMPACT



### WHO



CITY/STATE

### HURDLES



RIGHT-OF-WAY & PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

**More Information:** [tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion](http://tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion)

### Description

Median U-turn intersections (also called a thru-turn or Michigan left) guide all traffic, except left-turning vehicles, through the main intersection. Left-turning vehicles turn through U-turn openings in the median beyond the main intersection. Eliminating the left turn at the main intersection simplifies signal timings and provides more green time and less congestion to the major direction.

Median U-turn intersections are similar to superstreets but differ in that median U-turns allow minor street traffic to pass straight through the intersection. Superstreet intersections require all minor street traffic to turn right and make a U-turn.

### Target Market

Median U-turn intersections work best at signalized intersections (usually arterial roads) with heavy through-traffic congestion and moderate to light left-turn traffic. This design focuses on eliminating the delay caused by the left turns.

### How Will This Help?

- **Costs less and is faster** to deploy than other innovative intersection designs.
- **Simplifies the traffic signal** timings for the intersection and whole corridor by eliminating the need for a left-turn arrow.
- **Increases safety** at the intersection by eliminating traffic conflicts caused by left turns.

### Implementation Issues

This intersection design can require additional right-of-way to accommodate the U-turn turning radius in the median. Additionally, if the number of left-turning vehicles increases dramatically, the traffic generated could overwhelm the intersection.

Public acceptance is crucial for the design's success. When using this design, agencies should actively engage the public to educate them on the concept.

### SUCCESS STORIES

**Plano, Texas.** In 2011, the City of Plano installed **the state's only median U-turn intersection** at Legacy Drive and Preston Road.



**The intersection dramatically improved congestion by reducing intersection wait times by 65%.**

**However, the design was abandoned in 2014 due to a lack of public understanding and acceptance.**

