

Use courtesy crossings to complement the quality of the place

COURTESY CROSSINGS

People prefer to be able to cross the road exactly where they want to, without being made to go out of their way.

Courtesy crossing can supplement or sometimes replace formal zebra and signal controlled crossings. They can be located more closely together along a conventional street than formal crossings and give people more opportunity to cross where they wish.

Courtesy crossings can take many forms and be designed to fit in with the surrounding character of an individual place.

They can be particularly effective where the speed and volume of traffic have been reduced.



Courtesy crossing place at Shrewsbury



Courtesy crossing place south London

PEDESTRIAN REFUGES

Pedestrian refuges make it easier for people to cross wider streets as they can do so in two stages.

The dimensions, construction and construction materials can vary according to the traffic conditions and also character of the place. Wide refuges reduce carriageway width and so encourage lower speed. They also provide more room for people to wait.

Traffic islands can be designed to serve as a pedestrian refuge. For example a wide central traffic island with low kerbs and extending some length along the street can make ad hoc crossing movements easier



Centre refuge aligned with a historic building



Pelican crossing without guardrailling

UNCONTROLLED JUNCTIONS

Mini-roundabouts are designed to help drivers negotiate junctions where speeds and volumes of traffic are reasonably low. In practice mini-roundabouts are not entirely satisfactory for pedestrians because drivers concentrate on avoiding other vehicles and do not expect to see people in the road. Mini-roundabouts also require traffic signs and road markings that add to street clutter.

Some highway authorities have successfully experimented with arrangements where there is a total absence of traffic signs and road markings. Drivers are encouraged by the layout and road surface to negotiate safely with other drivers as well as pedestrians. In the legal sense these are uncontrolled junctions.

A more complex form has been installed at the centre of Poynton, Cheshire.



Surface materials at an uncontrolled junction with courtesy crossing help drivers to negotiate