

Community Focus Statement C: Become a model gateway community to Joshua Tree National Park.

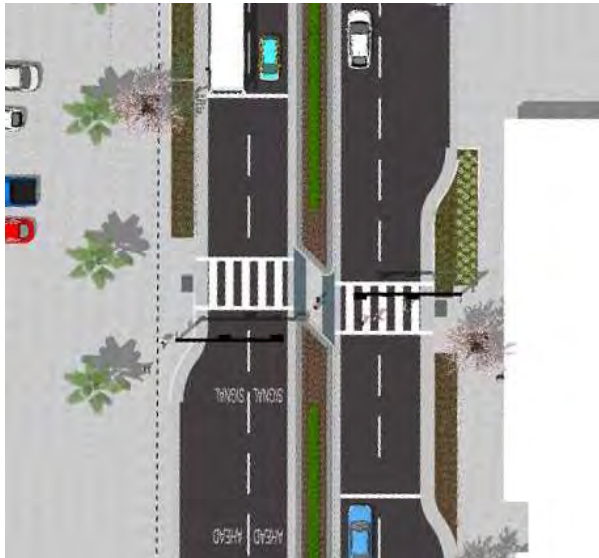
Action Statement C.7: Construct pedestrian refuge areas at key intersections to aid pedestrians crossing Twentynine Palms Highway.



Benchmark: Community and Caltrans approval for installing a lighted crosswalk.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Pedestrian refuge: \$100,000–\$150,000



community’s two signalized intersections along Highway 62: at Sunburst Street and Park Boulevard. Additional

*Pedestrian crossing with a center median pedestrian refuge that allows pedestrians to deal with traffic in one direction at a time.
Photo source: Michael Baker International*

refuge areas should also be considered at other intersections and midblock locations that experience a high volume of pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic or that coincide with dedicated bicycle routes. Refuge area improvements nominally

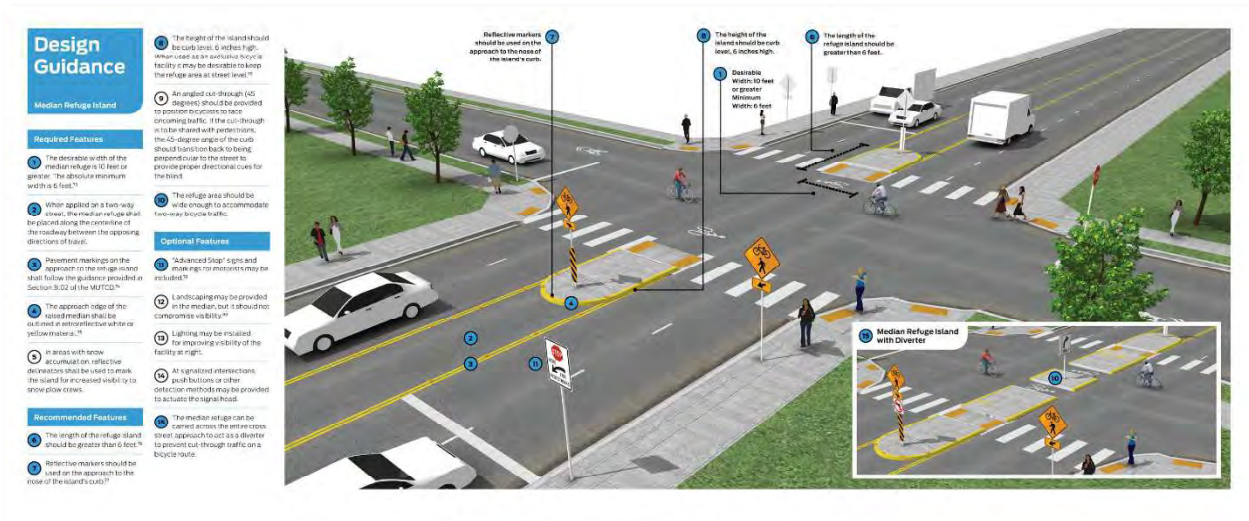
Twentynine Palms Highway (Route 62), which is under Caltrans’ jurisdiction, is a wide, high capacity roadway that divides Joshua Tree. These conditions negatively impact the ability of pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the highway, reducing mobility within the community. Installing pedestrian and bicycle refuge areas will help decrease the roadway’s width and reduce pedestrians’ and bicyclists’ exposure to oncoming traffic, enabling safer and easier crossings while increasing mobility.

One of Caltrans’ goals is to increase walking and biking by 2020. This project would assist Caltrans to meet that goal in Joshua Tree.

To provide users with adequate defensible space, the island should measure at least 6 feet wide (preferably 8–10 feet wide) and 40 feet long with an ample nose between the crossing and the intersection. To reduce unprotected crossing segments to the maximum extent possible, the island can also be paired with sidewalk bulb-outs that extend into the on-street parking zone.

The community should encourage to include refuge areas in the community’s capital improvement plan. The refuge areas may also be planned and constructed in coordination with traffic calming measures along Highway 62 (Action Statement C.5), installation of a lighted crosswalk at the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and Sunset Road (Action Statement C.6), and/or Complete Streets improvements (Action Statement E.4). Possible funding sources for the refuge areas include:

- US Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Improvement Grants
- Federal Highway Administration, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and State Highway Safety Office Grants
- US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Grants



NACTO's design manuals provide for best practices for creating safe pedestrian environments. Photo Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Action Statements C5, C6, and C7 could be considered together.

*Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan was accepted by the Board of Supervisors in 2019. The Plan identifies opportunities for active transportation for the Morongo Basin Region. The plan can be used as a resource for transportation grants for walkways and bike paths.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Ensure that the Joshua Tree County Service Area coordinates with the County Special Districts Department for available funding opportunities.	Champion with Committee Created in C6.	Months 1 – 12	Transportation.gov - Grants and Programs https://www.transportation.gov/livability/grants-programs
2. Encourage the Joshua Tree County Service Area to work with the County Special Districts Department to identify key intersections through a safety study.	Committee	Months 13 – 14	Federal Highway Administration – Bicycle and Pedestrian Program https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/index.cfm USDA – Rural Development Programs and Services http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services
3. Expand the Joshua Tree County Service Area responsibilities to cover streetlighting by forming a streetlighting special district/Determine assessment.	Joshua Tree County Service Area, County Special Districts Department, CSA Property Owners	Month 13 - 20	Community Service Area Guidelines http://www.sbcounty.gov/lafco/items/201004/item_9c.pdf
4. Once key intersections are identified, have the Joshua Tree County Service Area move forward and beginning the process of obtaining funds and awarding the project for design as discussed in Action Statement C.6 (see Action Statement C.6 for next steps/actions).	Joshua Tree County Service Area, County Special Districts Department	Years 1 – 3	Joshua Tree CSA 20 http://www.joshuatreerecandpark.org/ Design Guidelines http://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/intersection-design-elements/crosswalks-and-crossings/pedestrian-safety-islands/ http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/intersection-treatments/median-refuge-island/