



**Public Works Department**  
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**Robert G. Stubbe, P.E.**  
Public Works Director

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Vision Zero News: City of Omaha Piloting New Modular Safety Enhancements on 24th Street to Improve Pedestrian Access and Safety**

In a continued effort to prioritize pedestrian safety, the City of Omaha is launching an innovative pilot project aimed at improving pedestrian access and safety. The Vision Zero Action Plan recommends enhancements to pedestrian crossings in areas of higher risk to help achieve our safety goals. The City, with support from an AARP/Toyota – Community Challenge Grant, is piloting a new modular system designed for quick and efficient installation of pedestrian refuge islands.

These innovative modular pedestrian (median) islands will immediately enhance pedestrian visibility, safety, and access on 24<sup>th</sup> Street at Oak Street and B Street, two high-traffic intersections serviced by METRO Transit and located on a Vision Zero High Injury Network corridor.

Pedestrian islands offer immediate safety benefits by providing safer crossing options for pedestrians of all ages and abilities, while also serving as traffic calming measures (slowing speeds) for approaching vehicles. The islands serve as a crucial resting point for individuals with mobility challenges and allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time, significantly reducing their exposure to vehicles.

While permanent infrastructure is part of Omaha's long-term safety strategy, the temporary modular islands are a cost-effective tool that can deliver immediate improvements as the City works to plan and budget for permanent upgrades.

If these modular islands prove to be a success, the City plans to expand the use of these modular safety tools systemically throughout Omaha, focusing on areas with the greatest need based on data from the Vision Zero High Injury Networks.

Public Works installed the first island at 24th and B St on Wednesday, Oct 2nd. The City invites the media to observe the installation of the second island on Friday, Oct 4th at 24th and Oak St. Construction begins at 8am, and representatives from Public Works will be on hand at 9:30am to answer any questions. METRO Transit and AARP may also be in attendance to answer any questions as well.

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** Fri, October 4th

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** 24th and Oak Street

#### **Contact:**

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