

CDOT Visual Opinion Survey Results

Section 4, Commercial Medians- Comments

<p>Flowering shrubs and trees make medians very appealing. One feels safer from the oncoming traffic with wider medians filled with trees.</p>
<p>Medians should be aesthetic as well as functional. Solid grass is not great because no one wants to walk across wet grass. Bricked over with trees and bushes no more than half a lane wide is most appealing and functional.</p>
<p>I like medians with plantings.</p>
<p>Loved the trees and plants in the landscaped medians. I wonder why a lot of grassy medians are just strips of grass. They could be so much nicer with trees and flowers. Boulevard-style streets with grass, flowers, and trees are by far the nicest street set-ups.</p>
<p>Medians should be on all four or more lane roads. The landscaping should be greater on roads classified as gateways.</p>
<p>The first picture showed a sign in the median which was distracting. In another, the left turn lane seemed unnecessary. Why not just slow traffic down by letting left turners back up into the road? Linear tree planting was distracting. Should provide variety of location and diversity of plantings. Why were brick pavers placed at back of curb in several pictures? Why not use just a curb instead of curb and gutter if the median is a high point.</p>
<p>Too many visual obstructions to sightlines in the planted medians, plus insufficient lateral clear zone distances.</p>
<p>I like Medians with plantings and Light fixtures.</p>
<p>I think that brick or some other material that people can walk on should be placed around any median that is as wide as a lane. In the median should be large trees, flowers, and small bushes but they should stop far enough away from an intersection with out lights so that people can make sure the intersection is clear. This should be made sure in areas with hills and other things that might obstruct the view of a car or a person walking. Having the "5th lane" kills the dream for anyone wanting to cross with a car or on foot on any major road in Charlotte or in any city and such things should not be done. Rather have a feeder road that goes around and serves many business and a light. Then have the business face the street when built.</p>
<p>I loved the medians full of trees and flowers and shrubs.</p>
<p>Medians used more like gardens are appealing an add to the area/neighborhood. Strips of grass are boring (especially if the city does a poor job of cutting grass). Flowers / color is most appealing and mix of trees!</p>
<p>Trees seem to make a big difference for medians, too. If they are there, the median is much more attractive. If there are no trees, the median looks bad even tho it may be serving a function.</p>
<p>Medians should not only separate directions of traffic, but provide asthetics and safety. I like medians that are functional - are meant to be crossed on foot - and pretty. Merely separating traffic seems to just makes cars go faster.</p>
<p>I liked the attractiveness of the trees and flowers with the wide medians.</p>

I like medians with trees and other landscaping. The photos with trees and colorful plants/flowers are great.

Trees.

Mixed materials.

Landscaped medians are beautiful in a road, providing they don't obstruct the drivers view when he needs to turn. The cement medians have absolutely no appeal to them.

If you have a median in a road, then use it. Plant trees and grass not just a concrete barrier.

larger trees in the median serve o calm the traffic more

I like medians with intresting plants with many colors.

There is no point in having a concrete median - might as well have no median. Sometimes it is ok to have no media to save space on the other sides of the street. A median looks best with trees or flowers planted in it. An empty, grassy median is almost as bad as a concrete median.

Raised medians are safer than center turn lanes. Plantings are attractive but must be low enough to not block drivers' views of traffic.

A median is better than no median IF traffic warrants a median at all. A landscaped median is better than a non-landscaped (concrete or just grass)one. But, the landscaping has to be such that it doesn't interfere with the median's ability to provide a pedestrian refuge. And whatever's there has to be maintained. Trees are great in medians.

Medians w/ flowers and trees are very soothing to people. They reduce stress in traffic and allow people the ability of relax a little while driving rather than worried about a head on collision (provides some room for driver error).

planting!

I am an avid horticulturist and aborist but the purpose of a street is to move traffic...planting do not help. If anything they limit sight of motorists. Medians would be more beneficial paved with asphalt rather than with brick borders around flowers.

Medians have a dual purpose. They provide spacious good looks which enhances the surroundings while providing a haven for pedestrians to cross the street. However, the medians must be large enough and have adequate means for people to gain access or the hard work of installing and maintaining is lost when the grasses, flowers, and bushes are trodden by non caring pedstrians. It should be ensured that there are ample means for traffic to cross over and to ensure that the medians prevent traffic from "jumping" the median which defeats the purpose of having them. They do provide good separation in many cases from opposing traffic and softens the landscapes in a congested area. Medians are ideal for a larger intersection.

I like wide well vegetated medians that are well maintained

It seems the elevation adds to visual appeal, the higher the landscaped median, the greater the appeal. Width offers increased appeal as the wiser thye median the nicer the visual. Certainly trees, flowers, brickwork, etc are improvements over "just" grass, which is a significant improvement over "just" cement (as long as that grass is 'maintained' - - - unless the grass is 'beach grass' which is intended to be long, etc).

With trees/landscaping is better.

Shade trees good!

Medians with trees, shrubs and bricks are the most attractive.

Medians within the city limits should allow for vision of the other lanes when approaching intersections or signs.

A poorly cared for median is worse than no median at all! Many medians around the city go unmowed for long periods of time. Medians must have curbs so that they aren't regularly damaged by cars cutting to the inside of a turn lane.

The medians were beautiful. Are they a traffic hazard? Could be determined by what is planted in the medians.

Sidewalks with wide planting strips are more important than medians, if a choice must be made. Trees in median better than no trees.

The better-maintained and more colorful planting in the median, the better it looks to me for the city. Medians of concrete, or grassy medians with bald spots, tell me that the city doesn't care about that neighborhood.

I liked when the medians were wider and included plantings and trees. I am concerned for emergency vehicles and access points for them to cross over during peak traffic. Are there openings in these medians? If so would they be able to see around the plantings or trees to safely cross? While these wider medians are more visually pleasing and can assist with traffic calming, they do pose a significant difficulty for the emergency vehicles.

I would say that having a median is better than not having a median, it helps in highly trafficked areas to slow and control traffic. I am concerned about access points for emergency vehicles as well as for commercial stores and businesses.

Wide planted medians with grass, trees and shrubs are ideal. A median with grass only is not very affective, visually, although better than concrete or none at all.

Medians should be wide with low-maintenance plantings (not grass!!)...

Colorfully planted and bricked medians certainly add more visual interest. Important to any median is having a decent buffer between the opposing lanes and adding trees or plantings helps reduce hazards associated with nighttime oncoming lights. Most of these look very good.

I liked the use of materials aside from concrete (the brick) and I also like the use of color with the planting materials. I liked the larger trees providing a light filter. I feel like evn these pictures are a bit limited in creativity. I would like to see sculpture, water, or light also used in medians to create a better looking more impressive median.

a median with trees and/or shrubery is best.

if a median strip is to be beneficial it must be maintained. a dead median strip is worse than no median strip.

Loved flowers and foliage in the medians though that can be costly. Roads have medians for a purpose and if they do not have a median, turning lanes are fine as well. Every road requires special considerations. On Highway 51, a median would block the view of retail shops for the driver and passenger(s) and could be dangerous.

This is like a wake up call to myself saying "You want more grass, trees, and flowers!" It's prettier and classier!

I don't think you should have pictures of a no median left turnlane in a survey about medians. That doesn't even qualify. Duh

Wide medians are great but should be planted with either shrubs or trees. Plants are pleasing to the eye and will reduce boredom and provide some measure of safety for motorists.

Each median serves a different purpose, so the survey is skewed.

I like a median with trees and flowers

The medians with landscaping were much nicer.

I'm a fan of nature and the beauty thereof, so I'm more partial to the medians that have trees, flowering shrubs, and other greenery. And sometimes there has to be a small or no median to accomodate the traffic that is on that particular street or to allow for a left turn lane. All of these pictures were wonderful examples of medians.

liked medians with a variety of landscaping: trees, shrubs & groundcover

liked medians that were medium sized, not too wide or too narrow.

The best medians were the ones that had nice landscaping. If they don't keep it up and let the grass grow too tall, it would be best to just have the concrete though.

medians that are maintained look incredible but those that aren't just look like a waste of money

Same comments as planting strips (width and planting material).

I liked the meadians the had flowers and trees. Medians with just grass,especially unkept take away from the appearance of the street.

I preferred the medians that were wider with larger trees and landscaping. I think it is important to ensure there are ways to "cut across" the median. At Gateway Village, people are forced to cut through the landscaping to cross the street. (People will always choose the shortest distance if traffic is not heavy!)

liked-plant,shrubs, flowers, noise buffers, trees, better visually, feeling of safety
disliked-lack of greenery(plants/trees)

Medians with trees, shrubs, perennials are by far the most attractive. Look at Queens Road, Mountainbrook.

I really LOVE the use of brickwork, shrubs/flowers and trees. It really helps the look of the area. Median vers no median I would prefer at least a median. really helps the flow of traffic (The Plaza). If there is not room for them, hopefully at least there is a turning lane.

Color is nice but bushes need to be lower. A poorly maintained median is worse than no median at all. Don't crowd too much into the median; well maintained grass can be as nice as plants, however there is more on-going maintenance involved.

Brick, trees, grass, scrubs and more plants.....

Poor maintenance and lack of trees and landscaping are negatives. Concrete medians are very negative.

liked trees in medians

I love that medians separate oncoming traffic! 'Nuff said.

Disliked plain medians. Liked when trees or colorful plants were added.

Medians are always a positive (safety items) on busy streets, despite the complaints from shop owners. Lights and trees in the median are great methods for improving eye appeal and separating traffic.

Clean lines and low vegetation. Clear places to turn or a suicide lane are preferred to long strips with lots of visual noise. I like the brickwork on some of the medians.

I liked medians with vegetation and wide ones tend to make a reduce the perceived rush of a thoroughfare. I also realize highly vegetated medians are costly, but appreciate the traffic break and a place for pedestrians to pause when crossing busy streets.

it would be nice if beattiesford rd. has good roads too like everybody els !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Streets are too wide in the suburbs. I don't like big fat medians because they create the illusion of being on the freeway and make drivers go faster. Regardless of speed limits, drivers go as fast as feels safe. Fat medians also leave too much room to create too many turn lanes, which create danger for peds like me. A thin median is nice to protect peds at intersections.

Fan of medians. I like medians not only because I feel that they provided that extra sense of security from traffic flowing in the opposite direction, but also for pedestrians as well. Medians are especially the best when they not only provide a sense of safety, but a warming look for the area with plant and flowers. Sometimes there are no need for medians in certain, but where there's a lot of heavy traffic that flows through an area, a median is always the best way to keep accidents and careless mistakes from happening.

high curbs were great,helps put cars away from each other,tree's help in case of accidents,need more higher curbs for protection,hurts cars,but need to learn to drive if they hit them!

Trees and vegetation in the median make things look much better. I'd rather see no median than the two foot concrete medians.

Wider is better, whether with grass, trees, shrubs, etc. Web site is slow to advance to next picture, but this may be due to heavy usage on this day. I hope people don't get discouraged and logout mid-stream.

Shrubs, trees and flowers make medians much better

Medians are a nice addition. All concrete medians are worth less than no median. A grass median w/o other landscaping is okay. A median with intermittent trees and then low level growth (flowers, shrubs) is VERY nice. There is an optimal median width, although the picture of the narrow one planted with bushes and trees was nice.

flowers& plants brighten everything up

I like medians of any size, but they are prettier with plantings of trees and flowers. I greatly dislike medians that have been planted, but are not maintained and are an eye sore with weeds.

I am not averse to a lack of medians; however, I liked the medians that were wide with attractive landscaping.

Wider medians are safer. More plantings make a nice touch, but are not an essential element.

Cement medians or no medians at all are ugly. Having a median that at least has grass shows that a city cares about its streetscape. However, they must be maintained. It also must be kept in mind that different kinds of medians serve various purposes and some serve better than others depending on its use, location or flow of traffic through the area. No median is needed on a street that has many driveways to businesses.

Medians are pleasing to the eye but doesn't really matter that much unless there is a functional reason for it. For example, Busy crossings with quick lights.

Likes: Of course the more landscaped medians are more pleasing to the eye but as a taxpayer I understand costs involved.

Dislikes: None.

Like wide landscaped medians with more than grass - as long as you can turn around when needed.

The medians with trees and flowers were the most attractive

Flowering medians are wonderful. Concrete slabs down the center make me a little edgy.

Liked medians with trees and flowers. Something to make the street more attractive.

I liked flowers, taller shade trees, brick & pedestrian amenities, , alternative materials than concrete (like granite/rock)and well maintained medians. Even just grass is better than no median at all, but looks incomplete if there is enough space for trees.

I disliked the concrete-only medians, but they were also better than no medians at all. The two direction turn lanes seem really dangerous and confusing, and make streets look very ugly.

Medians should reflect the community and the local eco-system showcasing native vegetation of all types, preferably low-maintenance and flowering. They should reflect name signs for different parts of the city. They should contain brickwork/pavers. **THEY SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE.** No median is a safety issues. Paved median is a necessary evil in many cases. Skinny concrete medians look ugly and because they are so low provide no positive barrier to separate traffic. Our 3" high standard serves no purpose. You could do the same with paint.

Wide and well-planted.

I like having a grass median. There should still be good visibility at all levels. For instance with big azalea, a child or dog could dart out and you wouldn't see it till last min. Like trees but again too many trees are distracting. They should be beside the road not so many in the median.

medians with trees and plantings add real strength both visually and environmentally. i do believe that any street with 4 lanes should have a median for safety.

A large median that could accomodate strollers, cafes, etc, would be most interesting.

Medians must be well maintained. If it's easier to plant shrubs or ground cover that should be the alternative to grass that is unkept. Trees, flowering bushes and flowers are nice. I appreciate the bulbs that bloom along the medians in Charlotte each year.

Some of the wider ones looked too much like an office park. Not particularly urban in nature.

I liked the medians with plants on them.

The combination of hardscape and plant material really makes a great median. The pavers and ground cover look really good and probably would be less maintenance than grass.

I like medians not only for the asthetic value, but also for the safety aspect (less risk of a car from the other direction swerving into your lane). Medians with a variety of landscaping (grass and trees, trees and flowers, shrubs and trees, etc.) are much prettier.

i liked the wide medians.these are much safer than the narrow ones.

landscaped medians are much nicer than just grassed or concrete ones.

The medians themselves seemed to be an improvement over none. Maybe becasue they break up the street (asphalt coverage). Medians made green by grass, trees, and other plants are nice. Trees especially. But landscaping with colorful flowers and ornamentation are exceptional. Nicely done medians give a warmer community feel.

Is the brick in the first picture supposed to be for pedestrian access or just decoration?

Some of the pictures had "messy" median strips. If they are not kept, it is better to forgo the landscaped median.

If you need a center median, make it usable not just decorative space. Make it wide enough for joggers, with well maintained grass.

None

not too much to block the vision

use medians to give pedestrians some comfortable place to perch while crossing street. i.e. add sidewalks, etc.

Medians with trees and additional landscaping were more appealing than those without.

Liked:

- Medians that have mature enough and dense enough planting that the perceived overall width of the road is halved.
- Medians that are wide enough to provide a safe harbor for pedestrians crossing the street.

Dislike:

- Excessively wide undefined medians with little or no planting. These feel like smaller versions of an interstate.

I didn't notice any medians with trees. "Green medians break up the pavement. Streets with trees and without power lines are much more pleasing and give a small town friendliness atmosphere. Streets without trees and with power lines have a very desolate industrial feel, even if the buildings are attractive.

If there is space, prefer median, esp median that cannot be used as a spare lane by impatient SUV/truck drivers. Also, having a median gives me a sense of safety from erratic on-coming drivers. Additional crossing safety, too. More scenic.

I like the medians with trees the best. The brand new median along Prosperity Church is nice but they should have planted trees. The project consists of a 8'-10' brick wall that is very nice with some plantings in front of the wall and some on the other side of the street, but the median looks plain and does not match the crape myrtles that are planted in the median on Mallard Creek Church Rd.

The wider the medians and the more plantings & color the better. When in bloom, the medians on The Plaza are some of the best in town.

Both with regard to medians and strips along the sides of streets...the wider and better planted the better. One of the most beautiful things about Charlotte are the beautiful neighborhoods throughout the city. It is the fact that there are lots of trees, azaleas, crepe myrtles, etc that line the streets and neighborhoods.

I am new to Charlotte, having moved here from Los Gatos, California. Los Gatos is arguably one of the most beautiful places in California to live. I will tell you, however, that Charlotte is even prettier. We could have moved and chosen to live anywhere in the US. We chose Charlotte, in large part because of the beauty of the city, it's cleanliness and the apparent thought that has gone into the community planning.

greenary with driver visibility is critical for safety.

It also looks good, should not be very tall greenary as to impare driver vision.

medians planted with trees and drought tolerant plants are best

Medians are preferred as they help keep traffic seperated. While plain medians are fine, maintained medians with trees and other plants are visually pleasing and beautify the city/county as a whole.

I like the ones that have some vegetation. The one with the pink 'bush' scares me a little because people tend to cross the street mid block sometimes, and I would be fearful of someone darting out from beside one and getting hit. Medians are great when they don't decrease the size of the lane, like the one on Parkway between Davidson Street and The Plaza (near Pegram Street). That one makes me feel like I am being squeezed in, especially if another vehicle is beside me.

The less of a median, the better. But no continuous left-turn lanes!

I liked the medians with a combination of hardscape and landscape the best. I really dislike the "yellow striped" medians... they are extremely dangerous (witness Hwy 51 in Pineville).

big median good, gotta be taken care of, and still no bike lanes anywhere.

In some pictures there was too many flowers, makes it hard to see across.

Trees and landscaping add a much more pleasing environment.

The very large no landscape medians were a waste of space. I would rather have the road widened or a turning lane added instead.

If we have medians, there should be frequent turn accesses. They should be visually pleasing with ground cover that doesn't need mowing.

Just grass least favorite. Adding street lighting better; adding trees even better; adding landscaping even better.

Medians if they occur at all should be minimum 5' wide but no wider than 10'. They should have plantings in them other than grass, preferably something taller rather than shorter.

I would rather have no median than to see one with overgrown or unkept grass/plants. Really don't care for total concrete median because they seem to collect trash and weeds. Brick or other treatments really dress up medians. Medians with extensive landscaping (irrigation system watering grass/flowers and trees) combined with layers of brick/bird bath fountains are the ultimate. The key is maintenance.

Low growing vegetation must be maintained low enough so that sight distance is not obstructed. Tree limbs must be kept high for the same reason.

Wide medians with trees and grass are good.

plants in the median..YES...blooming/colorful flowers even BETTER...

Decorative medians with trees, plantings, and special elements are the most appealing, provided the median is wide enough.

the greener the grass and the more flowers in the planting strip the more I liked it

I like medians wide and filled with plants and trees! But even a little bit of median is safer than none at all.

Liked trees, flowers, bushes, wide medians. Disliked only grass, small thin trees or concrete.

Wider is better (although obviously not always practical). Also trees look great as long as they don't interfere with seeing oncoming traffic when turning left.

the more plants, flowers, trees that are in the median, the more attractive they are. concrete medians are useful for safety, but unattractive.

Things that make medians attractive include healthy grass, trees, flowers, shrubs, and brick. Less attractive medians have unhealthy grass, concrete, and a lack of plants other than grass. Roads that lack a median are least attractive, although those with a solid concrete median are hardly any better. Also, an attractive median is more attractive when it is wide than when it is narrow.

A green median of any sort is better than no green medians at all

Flowers, plants, add a lot to the beauty of a street/neighborhood.

I like the landscaping in medians, as long as the trees do not block driver's view when turning.

Those with the bricks in the middle look nice, but when it becomes a sidewalk, somebody's gonna die, just like people use the truck apron at the roundabout at Davidson/9th as a sidewalk. I don't like trees, again for the reason they don't belong in planting strips. small concrete or no median at all are the best options. And where there is no median, don't put of those yellow sticks keeping people from turning. They look bad, and I'll push them over if they're in my way.

medians need trees

Wider medians, especially with plantings, are most attractive. However, flower beds that are not maintained can become unsightly.

The medians I liked best were wide with lush plants, grass and trees.

I liked medians with landscaping & trees the best.

Wide, well-landscaped medians are better.

Grassed medians w/tree are better looking and look safer than head-on with no median

Trees and attractive landscaping are nice, but they shouldn't obscure the view of the oncoming lanes and opposites side of the street. They also shouldn't be so wide that you feel like you're on a one-way street.

While the medians can be make to look really good, they limit access of traffic trying to turn. Allot of the time, they also impact the response time of emergency vehicle. Also, they can block your vision.

Any median is better than none at all for multi-lane roads. Space permitting, wider is better. Grass is better than concrete, trees better than just grass. Sidewalks could be good as long as they keep pedestrians away from traffic, but the ones that looked like they had brick walkways were right next to the lanes so it didn't seem safe.

Really liked the medians that made use of plantings like trees and flower beds.

Planted medians are nice but not at the expense of a needed left turn lane. If only a small concrete median can be used it is better than no median

Liked...decorative medians with low growing plants and tall trees. Tall bushes create a sight barrier. Disliked...no median at all. A simple wide grassy median is fine but it looks "cheap" or effortless in design (visually).

Flowers and shrubs are a definite plus. Concrete medians are the worst.

I definitely like the median that also help to beautify the city.

I feel that it is important to have medians in place for the sake of traffic. With so many people on the roads in Charlotte it can become quite congested. Without separation drivers can sometimes be focusing on the movement on the other side of the road instead of what is in front and behind. If there is a median the driver would not feel as if they need to watch the people to the side as much as what is directly around them. Also if an accident is to occur than the chance of it crossing lanes and causing a larger mess is limited.

Likes: landscaped medians with trees, flowers, groundcovers other than grass, medians with decorative pavers marking edges/curbs or pedestrian crossings, medium-width medians.

Dislikes: concrete medians, narrow medians, medians planted only in sparse grass, too-wide medians on roads too wide for comfortable pedestrian crossing.

I believe the presence of medians slows traffic down. Medians with planters and so forth really make the streets look great.

poor choices for medians...

wide medians with numerous trees that aren't planted in a straight row. stagger the trees and add shrubs where visibility allows. grass where visibility is a problem. native plants are best.

I like plantings that aren't too busy to distract or block views; I like trees scattered but not necessarily every three feet; I like green, but I also like pedestrian refuges in the midst of medians.

Again, it is hard to comment on medians alone. There are so many influences and aspects to making a successful street. The most appealing images here were of dense urban streets, catered to pedestrians and cars alike, not just highways dressed up to look a little less intimidating.

Is this a city or an overgrown park? Thin medians are acceptable, and turning lanes are an absolute necessity in many areas, but some of these medians are very excessive in width.

Articulated medians provide more pleasant atmosphere for high traffic areas.

Medians with trees, flowers and decorative brickwork are most attractive and desirable. That said, a concrete median is better than no median at all -- for safety.

I really like the look with the medians and the idea of how they can help avoid head-on collisions for even though turning lanes can be dangerous they are very helpful in allowing the traffic to keep a steady flow but they could also be seen as a down side to them for business owners for example if customers can't get into the places in a manner that wouldn't be causing them to go out of the way in order to do so then they will usually decide it's not worth the trouble -- I guess what I'm saying is just to make sure there are enough break-through areas so if you miss a turn you don't have to go five miles to be able to turn around to get back to where you wanted to be in the first place

Landscaped medians greatly improve the image of a street.

we need more than just grass without impairing vision.

I like trees in the medians. I like sidewalk crossings through and parallel to (along) the medians. Some medians may not be practical for traffic, pedestrian or otherwise, in the most urban of settings.

colorful and distinctive plants and trees in medians seem to "really make the street." (please consider line of sight) These types of medians may be more expensive to construct and maintain, but most citizens probably feel these are worth the cost.

I like the way it looks. I also like that it gives a barrier between lanes. Very helpful when make turns.

I like attractiveness - flowers, greenery, nice brickwork, etc.

Wide medians with trees and/or colourful plantings are most attractive.

I like the medians that have flowers, and greener. And there is a need for medians that have a turning lane too.

Don't care for the shrubs that can hide a small person to step into traffic from. Did like the shrubs that inspire the pedestrian to stay in the same walkpath.

Wide medians with trees

Medians with landscaped beds and a small bricked/paved area for bike or pedestrian traffic was by far the most visually pleasing. Wide median strips of grass and no other features feels too much like an interstate.

I like low shrubs/flowers so that you can see the other direction of cars but there is a wide barrier between you. Don't want too many trees because it obscures the drivers view.

Medians provide greenery that can absorb some of the CO2 our cars put out. A citywide consistency would be nice to eventually achieve. Not sure flowers in the middle are necessary as the cost of the maintenance might be prohibitive, but definitely would recommend trees and shrubbery.

Medians with trees are nice. Adding shorter plants/shrubs to the mix is better. Flowering plants in the median and adding details like brick are great.

These were all suburban type medians. Even the one downtown. You need to look at good urban medians too. The type you showed are detrimental in an urban and especially retail environment.

Better when vegetated. Best with trees and other veg not requiring mowing. Grass only, scalped, almost like concrete. Not shown, but would have been even better if shaped like shallow basin (bioretention) to help retain some stormwater run-off from road surface rather than mounded.

Didn't need all the fancy brickwork. I would rather see more strips with some plants or trees than use the same money for brickwork.

Love the medians with trees/bushes/flowers.

Well landscaped wide medians break up the visual hardness of multi lane roads and also provide for both pedestrian and vehicle safety.

I liked the flowers and variety of plants

Medians must be large enough to plant large trees. 8 feet wide or larger. Should be a refuge for pedestrians from traffic. Trees are a must.

trees are too big and flowers grow to tall

The medians with just grass or high-maintenance tend to become neglected & overgrown (such as the one in front of my home). Medians w/ low maintenance ground cover & crape myrtles or similar landscaping make our community glorious!

Many of the densely landscaped medians were very visually appealing. However, they would like have high maintenance and irrigation costs. May wish to consider incorporating lower maintenance elements such as rockery, stone, and other inorganic materials.

Keep in mind, that due to traffic stopped at intersections, emergency vehicles may have to 'jump the median.' If it is soft all the way to the intersection (i.e. planting, trees, etc.) it may compromise emergency response.

Wide medians with trees, flowers, ivy and/or grass are the best and with the strips of brick on the side. Medians with some grass is better than nothing but pretty blah. No medians are definitely negative and strip-mallish.

loved the bricks and landscaping. The problem with grass is the city's inability to keep it looking nice. A good ground cover with trees is probably the best.

The ones that had crowded growth or were poorly seeded, were no especially good, but better than no median. The cement median was pretty bad.

the upscale medians of course rate the highest as they have more time and effort invested to make them look good. some could have been improved by sweeping up the trash along the border or curb, as the case may be.

Beautifully-planted medians are usually in the "high-end" areas - other areas get concrete. Planted medians with plants/greenery that can hinder drivers from seeing clearly are dangerous. Many of these medians can be converted into turning lanes to ease congestion/limit maintenance.

liked foliage along with colorful annuals on the medians. Earlier I used the term "boulevards" (term I'm used to using to describing what are called "medians" down here.

I prefer the wider medians with plants and trees.

Not only do medians make traveling more safe, they also add to a street. For example, Central is safer for pedestrians, drivers and pedestrians but it also looks much better. Especially when there is more landscaping rather than just grass.

concrete medians are unattractive and might as well be skipped. plain grass medians are not much better, and use too much water.

Trees and flowers are best. Large green trees more appealing than scrawny leafless trees. Well-cared for grass is more appealing than dying or fading grass. Wider medians appeal more than thin medians, but trees can reverse that equation. If two medians are equal, the surrounding landscaping weighs in.

Liked landscaping and disliked when not properly planted with trees and/or shrubs.

basically if its green its better, no center turn lane all the way down a street. And if trees are going to be planted in a median, which they should, they should be shade trees, oaks, maples, etc. not holly or crape myrtle. All of charlotte's signature streets have shade trees planted in the middle, none have crape myrtle or holly

A median should not have to be mowed. Low landscaping that does not block ones' view is most desirable. **LOW MAINTENANCE.** I am not interested in my taxes going up for high maintenance mowing. The best thing about medians is that traffic on the opposite side can keep moving when emergency vehicles or school buses are present.

The median with the beautiful azaleas would force you into the street if you tried to walk on it. A nice median helps you cross the street "half way" in safety.

wide medians help separate traffic and give visual interest to keep drivers more alert; median also give pedestrians a safe break in crossing wide streets

I prefer the medians that have flowers or something more than just grass. The cement medians that don't even have grass are very ugly.

I am a tree person. I given a choice, I would opt to have the medians with trees and landscaping. The green medians with no trees/landscaping is certainly better than no median.

The streets that provided no median was fine, looking at the street that it's was (probably Pineville-Matthews Rd), although this is a dangerous turning situation due to traffic. However; the streets with the landscapped medians was more attractive.

Color is the median is great.

medians with greenery, flowers are attractive, but I know more expensive. Concrete medians just cause problems for people wanting to turn so need to be very strategic. When you put a median in, make sure to consider vehicles turning the corne because often they are done too tightly

i like the medians with plants and bushes - it discourages people from crossing streets at mid-block

I prefer medians! The bigger the better. The more trees the better.

I preferred the wider medians that had nice plantings & bricks. The are appealing to the eye & give pedestrians a place to stand between each flow of traffic.

Wide median richly landscaped with flowers if possible

I liked the medians with trees and a little grass.

The medians with planting or lighting were more attractive than the plain medians. Any type of median can make the roadway feel somewhat safer. However, if the median is too large, it looks like wasted space.

same

Plants are better.

medians should not be too wide or too narrow....narrow medians are dangerous and present a hazard especially to those drivers needing to make u-turns on streets that allow them. At the same time medians that are too wide obscure views if there are large trees and no street lights and serve little purpose unless its dividing a large highway or providing middle of the road street lighting...

Lush vegetation + wide median + regularly spaced trees is a winner.

The more landscape architecture - the better the median. Mix of colorful flowers with trees is highly attractive.

These medians overall were not at all bad. The bigger the trees and the more the trees the better. I like some of the various ground coverings too. However there was way to much grass. Grass is very stale to see, it is everywhere and too much is not a good thing. Also it must be maintained, cut, fertilized, etc...

Why not plant a ground covering like mint, or sedum, or something that would be both very interesting to look at as well as cheap to maintain. Also if you used mint or other herbs the fragrance would be wonderful. If people and animals walked on it, it would only stimulate more growth and release the fragrance.

Again...whats less cost up front and to maintain as well as what does the medians take away..a lane we need for the over crowded streets already?

I say put medians in where you still have 2 lanes each side plus the extra turning lane, but if streets are tight just forget it as we need lanes and we do not need extra workers watering landscapes, wasteing \$\$ on pine needles and clogging up traffic.

Green medians are nice but much more attractive and eye catching when planted with nice trees and shrubbery

Wide medians with landscaping are VERY pleasing aesthetically. Give peds somewhere to go if needed when crossing and breakup the ugliness of expanses of concrete. With landscaping can move traffic and still look nice

flowery or highy-vegetated medians were only found in the nicer areas, none or low-end commercial districts, this further divides economic classes in charlotte

I liked landscaping and brickwork the best.

I like the trees, and well cultivated grass and flowers.

I liked the medians with the trees and flowers planted in them. I do not like the unattractiveness of the concrete medians. The road without the median appeared much more dangerous than the roads with medians.

If you need medians are required, then do them well. The should be wide enough to accomodate trees and shrubs. The poor visual appearance of a grassed median makes it hadrdly worth the construction cost of curb and gutter.

A median should have a small walkway surrounding it to accommodate pedestrians crossing the street. This aids walkeers who might get caught at the middle of the intersection and gives them a place to stand out of the way of traffic without having to stand in the median.

As you can tell I like the planted medians. They add a lot to the look of the street. I believe there should be low maintenance ground covers that could be found to help with maintenance problems. I can't kill the border grass in my yard and it multiplies like crazy.

the medians made of concrete,stone or absent medians were unfriendly, felt cold... made the area look less inviting..uncared for. The medians that were lush, especially the ones with color jumped right at you and said "come visit" "welcome"...."we are glad you are here" "stay for a while and get to know us"...the ones that lacked care and any signs of greenery, flowers, etc...made you feel like you were in an industrial zone..not any place I would want to visit, shop at, or have my family live nearby

Trees and landscaping, in the median, add to the visual appeal of the streetscape.

Medians need more than just grass.

A median is an opportunity to beautify the road. I definitely like varied vegetation and trees, but not so overwhelming that you can't tell what's on the other side of the street. Grass medians are okay, as long as they are wide enough to clearly separate the lanes of traffic.

Median's with flowers, trees, grass are nice. Sometimes it is necessary to have no median so that traffic can flow. That's understandable. If there is room for flowers, add 'em.

i like the medium only if there is enough lanes. Why would you put a medium in and have traffic jams, Makes no sense to me. They look pretty but I rather have no beauty and be able to get around.

Any "green" median is good, of course a lovely well planted median is the best...but cost is a consideration ..so trees again seem to give a wonderful effect and low maintenance perennials a bonus.

I like having a mixture of trees, flowers and shrubs. I did not like having only grass.

I have dislike for center "turn lanes" - these suicide lanes seem to cause more accidents than they prevent, but I prefer them to no median at all.

the better looking the better over all. No need to make space useless

Trees with low foliage close to intersection block views of oncoming traffic, high curbs at intersection make left turns difficult, especially with my pickup truck. I like landscaped medians in business districts to keep jaywalking down.

Wide medians, brick trim, trees, & flowering plants all a big plus.

high cost to tax payers
use limited right of way needed by traffic
dangerous if pedestrian accosts you because median traps and prevents your escape to the left

There needs to be a balance between the addition of live items (trees, bushes, or plants/flowers) with which to enhance the view, and a limitation of such items so that they do not impair your view or become distracting to drivers. Being able to see a car attempting to pull out into traffic is more important than a "scenic view" in a commercial area.

If you leave out the concrete "median", this would allow you easier traffic rerouting during street paving, as well as keep down costs (it takes less time and money to pave straight across 2, 3, or 4 lanes than to put a concrete strip or curb to separate traffic for each direction).

an attempt to make it look like some effort went in to it - grass is better than no grass, but trees, plants a full look (grass or plants) makes a difference.

Again, I like the medians that were colorful and well-kept.

Like: medians with grass, trees, and shrubbery

Dislike: concrete medians

Most-liked: wide medians with small trees and shrubs that don't obstruct views

Least-liked: concrete medians, or medians with just maintained grass

dislike absence of plantings, narrow medians, concrete medians
like mixed plantings (variable heights)

Color Good! Brick Good!

Absolutley NO need to spend money on landscaping, DOT is about putting in roads. Skip the Crepe Myrtles and fill in some potholes!

I really liked the medians with planted shrubery, foliage and flowers. There is almost nothing that makes a neighborhood more inviting than well-manicured, colorful medians. Lovely shots of images here.

I liked the medians with the brick edging. It was a nice touch. I aslo like a heavily planted median rather than one with grass only.

Medians are good. Some of the landscaping in some of the images was a bit gaudy. Landscaping isn't as important in medians, I think.

medians can look very nice, but the space could be better used for bike lanes.

The medians which are very large and provide beautiful flowers and trees decorate the streetscape.

Loved the medians that had colorful landscaping.

Flowers are the best, then trees and shrubs. The brick outline is really nice.

I do not like medians with heavy growth that restricts sight lines. I prefer low ground covers, shrubs and trees of higher height spaced far enough apart as not to restrict sight lines.

BAD: No median that was concert only! Yuck!

Good: using trees wide green grass medians, and FLOWERS! If I have to sit in traffic jams, at least give me flowers to deveert my attention. i REALLY like driving down Park Road, Providencve road, and Queens Roads!

nice, wide, treed medians are nice, but I'm concerned about the additional maintainence costs for the city/dot, the additional 'land grab' mentality to provide the additional right-of-way, and the simple increased cost.

Bring on the trees & flowers.

Something besides concrete and grass should be in the median. But having one as opposed to not, I would choose to have one.

Green grass is key. The ones with bold colored flowers were especially nice.

the bigger bushes disguise the fact that the oncoming cars could end your life. more big bushes in the medians would be great.

Median growth should always allow drivers to see the opposing lane of traffic. In addition no median should be constructed that doesn't allow emergency vehicles to turn across every block of so and rolled curbs should be used.

The majority of the medians were nice. Some of them needed some plants added to the greenery. The streets without medians looked boring and dreary. There were a few that were almost perfect.

Most of the medians in this survey were not very good for visually impaired travelers. There needs to be several distinct paths through for crossings and landscaping needs to be kept where it will not interfere when looking for traffic to cross the street.

Medians are better than just pavement markings to divide opposing traffic, and of course the wider the better, and the more plantings - even better still! Colorful plants or flowers are a great plus also, but may require more maintenance and cost.

Well planted and wide medians are nice... but I do realize that the extra width costs money... so in those instances where utility is important, no median is fine.

The medians where there is a grassey area there should be more flowers added to add beauty

Medians are great - if they are maintained! Again, that costs a lot of money. In neighborhoods, they are more important than on commercial streets - except downtown. We need to make downtown look as good as possible. That is our selling point to prospective residents and businesses. We are definitely going in the right direction downtown in recent years.

Add trees!

The more color the better.

I liked the trees, bushes, flowers and bricks.

Median are great especially when they contain a burst of color!!! Now, medians that are planted and then forgotten are an eyesore. For example, more work needs to be done on the West side. I like the work that has been done on Lasalle. It really elevates the area.

Liked wide, planted medians. Disliked concrete or no median; dislike shrubs that block vision at intersections.

Again, wider and trees are best.

Preferred medians with ivy, flowers and trees. Really beautifies area. Grass was better than nothing, but didn't provide the impact of other plantings.

BRICK MEDIAN IS NICE

I don't like medians at all. I would prefer turning lanes so that I can turn without having to go all the way to the end of the street to make a u-turn. If you have to have medians I prefer those that are landscaped with trees, etc. instead of the cement medians. Too many medians in Charlotte!

planted are preferred

While treed & flowery medians look pretty, chances when driving you will be looking for something and its difficult to see across the street with a shrub blocking your view. I say leave the pretty trees & flowers for the sides not the center of the street. Plus, the upkeep mowing the lawn in middle of median is more expensive & distracting.

my general opinion on median landscaping is that it should contain low maintenance type of plants and/or shrubbery. Any flowers should be perennials in order to save money. Trees are nice, but I also know how long it takes us to get around to pruning the trees in CLT that desperately need it. If we plant trees, we need to water them...so they don't die (as some on E. Harris) The grasses (as on Albemarle Rd) are nice, but very hard to see around in smaller and/or lower vehicles (Hondas, Sebring-sits low) making it a visual safety nightmare. Doesn't help if your a short person on top of it all. So, low maintenance, low growing, and returning plants for low cost....How does that sound? Pretty good to me.

Color! Color! Everywhere! Begonias, Lantana! Hostas! Daylilies! Bradford pears! Dogwoods! These are the things people LOVE about visiting Charlotte!

The examples were well done - the picture of the concrete median was ordinalry but serves the purpose and undoubtedly less expensive to maintain but doesn't have the pride that landscaped ones have. Tree or shrub lined are wonderful as long as they dont obstruct the view of necessary signage.

Large medians with trees and colorful shrubs and flowers helps break the monotonous view of a wide street. As I am sure data proves, a divide in traffic is also safer.

I did not care for medians that were too thick or tall, or those without adequate walking space around them
MEDIAN W/ MEDIUM TO HIGH TREES AND FLOWERS ARE THE BEST. GOOD LOOKING AND HAVE USEFUL FUNCTION.

The wider, the more lush with trees, grass and flowering plants the better!!!

medians with landscape are nice to look at if they are maintain properly

Medians with nice shrubbery and trees are important to neighborhoods and retail areas. They provide shade, a buffer and a screen with regards to lights at night.

Medians in areas where pedestrian traffic is heavy should allow for places for people to stand in the middle of the road. On commercial streets or automobile oriented roads, medians should have trees and plants to reflect Charlotte's regions appeal and natural resources.

Liked greener grass rather than the sparse, brownish, preferred the landscaped, colorful plantings mixed in with a variety of trees. Liked the brick "walkway" crossing the the median at intervals.

Medians look much nicer with ornamental paver edging and semi-mature short growth plants. Should keep trees to dwarf species for visibility

Like bushes and color in the median. Didn't see any in the pictures but small sculptures are nice as well.

Likes: Wide medians, wide enough to accomodate plantings.

Dislikes: Narrow medians, concrete medians, turn-lane medians (often confusing to motorists and potential to cause accidents).

definitely the medians with a combination of trees and flower. it makes the whole scene just come alive!!!!!!

I tended to like the look better if there were lush plantings - trees, flowers, etc. My biggest beef about medians is that they add to the overall width of area needed for roads. There's too much clearcutting already, so if there is a wide median in place, it's important to have nice big trees planted. I see no purpose in wide flat, concrete medians.

Like wide medians--provide protection from oncoming traffic, and is very visually appealing.

Liked median with mature vegetation that blocks out view of oncoming traffic in the other lanes, neat appearance of landscaping.

I liked colorful medians, but with space for pedestrians to still walk through. I don't like the ones with trees because it seems that the trees are damaged in every ice storm we have and are then butchered afterwards.

I enjoy the beauty of the median and I also think they make the roads safer.

Obviously, the medians with lots of color/flowers, and pretty trees are more attractive. Especially if they have nice brick planters. I do think that the grass medians are more attractive than no median or concrete medians, if cost is an issue.

none

the medians with flowers and trees are the best. of course in some high traffic areas you need the turn only lane. i think medians when entering uptown should be heavily flowered with trees, make a great impression into the center city.

The wide medians add an aesthetic to the urban environment not normally seen. Like the idea of streetlights interspersed.

I liked the median's that had more grass on them rather than having a turn lane for both directions of traffic to use. But not so many trees and bushes that you can't see around the median to turn.

I REALLY like medians. They are super for traffic safety. They are also a piece of living art, charm and personality to an area. A professionally designed and well landscaped median provides a LARGE amount of beauty and pride and is ALWAYS a joy to behold in the process of driving. Although better for traffic safety etc, my least favorite medians are those of solid concrete, very narrow medians with dying grass only and medians with no trees, flowers or shrubs.