Background
Michigan Avenue in East Lansing, MI experiences approximately 10,000 vehicles per day. The surrounding area includes a large residential zone and the campus of Michigan State University (MSU), one of the largest universities in the United States.

Challenges
In addition to experiencing lengthy queues of left turning vehicles, this intersection has significant pedestrian and bicycle traffic, with one of the largest MSU dormitories located near the corner of Michigan Avenue and South Harrison Road. Furthermore, the community had a goal of improving mobility for non-motorized traffic.

Approach
This intersection became part of a $6 million multi-stage project to renovate the area’s roads. As a result, the Michigan DOT (MDOT) converted the intersection to an MUT both to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as to increase traffic flow along the roadway. As part of this project, MDOT designed the Median U-Turn bays to accommodate longer, articulated buses, and constructed a new bus haven on Michigan Avenue. Bike racks are available at each bus stop. Dedicated bike lanes make it easy for bicyclists to navigate the intersection and provide a buffer for stopped buses.

Results
In addition to improving traffic flow, the new MUT resulted in pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements both at signal and mid-block crossings – meeting the community’s goals to increase mobility for non-motorized traffic. Because conflicts between pedestrians and turning vehicles are eliminated and the median provides a safe haven for pedestrians and bicyclists, area residents have experienced a safer pedestrian environment. In addition, updated bicycle and transit accommodations have been installed and intersection throughput has been improved.