Need Statement Title: Pedestrian Safety Benefits/Impacts of Right Turn Lanes in Urban Settings

Need Statement: Describe the problem or the opportunity. Include background and objective.
Right turns lanes (RTL) are used to help traffic move more efficiently; but do right turn lanes at urban intersections have a benefit or impact to pedestrian safety? Metro busses are permitted to stop in an RTL for a stop; school buses cannot. What are the impacts of RTLs to pedestrians and cars?

The data shows that right turn lanes improve vehicle safety, and roadway capacity, especially on rural/suburban higher speed roadways. But, what about pedestrians in urban settings?

The focus of this study would be to investigate what research/data is available to determine if there are any adverse pedestrian safety effects to RTLs within urban settings (Focus on urban, 40 mph and lower roadways since rural/suburban roads could skew the results). This should include the various types of RTL (striped, separated, etc.). If research and data is not available, a second phase of this study could be to evaluate the effect of RTLs using the U of M’s HumanFirst Lab driving simulator in a controlled test to measure any adverse safety effects RTLs have on pedestrians.

Suggested Deliverables:
- Research report include monitoring of representative intersections in the study??

How does this project build upon previous research (include title or reference to a completed research effort)?
- None

Provide names to consider for a Technical Advisory Panel:
- Nicole Morris, U of M
- Brad Estochen, Ramsey County
- Randy Newton, City of St Paul
- Joe Gustafson, Washington County