



Sunset Neighborways Project

Neighborways vs. Slow Streets

Neighborways

Slow Streets

Description

A neighborway (neighborhood way) is a neighborhood walking and bicycling priority street. Pedestrians are not encouraged to travel in the road or use the roadway for recreational activities. Bicyclists may share the road with vehicles, or if space permits, have their own lane in the road.

Slow Streets are shared streets and a priority walking and bicycling route. Slow Streets are car-lite streets that repurposes the use of the street to create a shared roadway with vehicles for people to walk, bike, recreate, and exercise in the street.

Neighborway Design and Attributes

Neighborways are only implemented on neighborhood residential streets, and not on major corridors or arterial streets. Residential streets typically already have low vehicle usage.

Based on the street's existing conditions, various traffic calming tools can be applied to make the street safer, calmer, and more inviting. Neighborway designation is dependent on a street being low-stress. For streets that are already low-stress, no additional traffic calming may be recommended.

The traffic calming used in the Neighborway design tool kit aim to reduce vehicle speeding, improve intersection safety, demarcate space for people walking or biking, and manage traffic volumes.

A Neighborway is not a partial or full street closure. No vehicle access restriction is imposed on the street. If traffic diversion is recommended as traffic calming to improve the calmness and safety of the street, it would only be applied at a couple of targeted intersections and not along the entire corridor.

Slow Streets are implemented on neighborhood residential streets, and not on major corridors or arterial streets. Residential streets typically already have low vehicle usage. Other notable criteria for Slow Streets is that they cannot be on transit routes, because of the baseline implementation features required to create a Slow Street.

The baseline traffic safety design tools required and used to create a Slow Street is the imposition of a non-local vehicle access restriction (soft closure/partial street closure) and the use of traffic diverters at every operationally feasible intersection to deter through vehicle access.

A Slow Street is not a full street closure. Local access is still maintained on the street. Drivers with an origin or destination on the street (i.e. residents, visitors, mail/delivery vehicles, and emergency service vehicles), still have access to the street.

If needed, additional traffic calming can be applied on a Slow Street.

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