



Diverters and partial street closures

Definition

Diverters are barriers placed diagonally across an intersection, blocking through movements and creating two separate, L-shaped streets. Partial closures are barriers that block travel in one direction for a short distance on otherwise two-way streets. Both treatments can be designed to maintain two-way bicycle access.

Objective

To reduce motor vehicle traffic volumes and cut-through traffic on local, neighborhood streets.

Advantage

Reduces traffic volumes and cut-through traffic.

Ability to maintain full pedestrian and bicycle access.

Diverters do not close a street, only a redirection of traffic.

May have a crime prevention effect.

Provide opportunities for landscape treatments/streetscaping.

Challenge

Cause circuitous routes, increased travel times and volumes on nearby streets.

Emergency vehicle access must be considered. (All diverters and closures types can be designed to allow emergency vehicle access.)

May cause snow removal and street cleaning difficulties.

No reduction in vehicle speeds beyond the closed street segment.

Resources

ITE Traffic Calming Measures — Closure
<http://www.ite.org/traffic/closure.asp>.

PedSafe — Diverter
http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures_detail.cfm?CM_NUM=41.

Fehr & Peers Trafficcalming.org — Volume Control (Full closures, half closures, diagonal diverters, median barriers) <http://trafficcalming.org/>.

Streetswiki: Traffic Calming — Traffic Diverters
<http://streetswiki.wikispaces.com/Traffic+Diverters>.

BikeSafe: Bicycle Countermeasure Selection System — Traffic Diversion http://www.pedbikesafe.org/BIKESAFE/countermeasure.cfm?CM_NUM=29.

NCHRP Report 500, Volume 10 — A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Pedestrians (see “Strategy 9.1 A4 Provide Vehicle Restriction/Diversion Measures,” p. V-25 ff. <http://safety.transportation.org/htmlguides/peds/assets/PEguide.pdf>).

Images (clockwise from main image):

Example of a diverter and partial street closure
Source: Adam Fukushima, pedbikeimages.org.

Additional examples:
Sources: Steven Vance, Flickr; Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); VeloTraffic, Flickr; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org.