



Gateways/transition zones

Definition

Geometric roadway design and/or physical landmark in the public ROW, which communicates a change in context and signals the transition from a higher speed roadway and/or rural context to lower speed residential or commercial district.

Objective

To compel motorists to reduce travel speed and to be alert to the presence of pedestrians and other roadway users, as well as different movements and operations, upon entering a commercial, business, or residential district from a higher speed roadway. Gateways and transition zones can also be used to create a unique image, community identity, or sense of place.

Advantage

Reduction in speed.

Can provide the opportunity and space for other important information or infrastructure (signage, lighting, access management, etc.).

Can contribute to aesthetics and to place-making efforts.

Increased motorist awareness.

Challenge

Can be difficult and complex to design in order to achieve treatment objectives, which generally are more than one.

May require acquisition or use of private land.

May face political / community opposition.

Maintenance responsibility.

Resources

MassDOT “Project Development & Design Guide,” Chapter 16: Traffic Calming, Section 16.5.10: Gateways http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Portals/8/docs/designGuide/CH_16.pdf.

PedSafe — Gateways http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures_detail.cfm?CM_NUM=37.

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

Traffic Calming: A Comprehensive Approach (presentation, slide 26) http://www.mtc.ca.gov/services/arterial_operations/downloads/trafficcalming/Abridged_Comprehensive_Approach.pdf.

Evaluation of Gateway and Low-Cost Traffic-Calming Treatments for Major Routes in Small, Rural Communities (Iowa DOT, 2007) <http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/traffic-calming-rural.pdf>.

“Traffic Calming,” UK Department for Transport, Local Transport Note 1/07, Chapter 7: Gateways and entry treatments <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-transport-notes/ltn-1-07.pdf>.

Traffic in Villages: Safety and Civility for Rural Roads: Entry points (Dorset, England, p. 16) http://www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk/_files/_publications/50-1.pdf.



Images (clockwise from main image):

Gateway/transition zone, Lincoln Square, Chicago, Illinois. Source: worldstreetphotos.com, Flickr.

Additional examples: Sources: Dan Burden; MR38, Flickr; puroticorico, Flickr; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; jarkatmu, Flickr.