



Shared streets, plazas, and pedestrian malls

Definition

Pedestrian-priority and pedestrian-only streets and adjacent areas in the public ROW. Shared streets (a.k.a. woonerfs, home-zone streets, festival streets) are usually in commercial areas or residential neighborhoods (home zones) where streets are relatively low volume and narrow. Shared streets typically do not have boundaries such as lanes, curbs, sidewalks, etc., and motorists are encouraged to travel at approximately 10-15 mph. Vehicles can be slowed by placing trees, planters, parking areas, and other obstacles in the street.

Objective

To make streets and adjacent areas within public ROWs safe and conducive to public uses and activities beyond transportation alone.

Advantage

Provides public space for social activities and play by local residents and/or visitors.

Gives priority to active transportation modes and lifestyles.

Can be used to advance economic development goals.

Challenge

Cost may be high.

Innovative nature of shared streets heightens resistance (from community, businesses, traditional traffic engineers, and/or elected officials), so, educational effort may need to be substantial.

Resources

PedSafe — Shared Streets http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures_detail.cfm?CM_NUM=67.

MTC Safety Toolbox: Woonerf <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/bicyclespedestrians/tools/woonerf/index.htm>.

Where the Sidewalk Doesn't End: What Shared Space has to Share <http://www.pps.org/reference/shared-space/>.

The Woonerf—A Social Invention in Urban Structure <http://www.ite.org/traffic/documents/JJA81A17.pdf>.

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

Shared Streets Case Studies (Community Design + Architecture) <http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/PCD/Plans/Bergamot-Area-Plan/Shared-Space-Streets.pdf>.

“Designing the Future — Shared Space: Qualitative Research,” UK Department for Transport http://nacto.org/docs/usdg/shared_space_qualitative_research_dickens.pdf.

“Shared Space,” UK Department for Transport, Local Transport Note 1/11, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3873/ltn-1-11.pdf.

“Shared Streets and Alleyways — White Paper” (Draft) http://nacto.org/docs/usdg/shared_streets_and_alley_ways_witte.pdf.

Databank Shared Space (in Dutch) <http://shared-space.org/>.



Images (clockwise from main image):

Example of a shared street.
Source: Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org.

Additional examples:
Sources: Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Andy Hamilton, pedbikeimages.org; Charlie Zeeger, pedbikeimages.org; Charlie Zeeger, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden; amseaman, Flickr.