The Opposite of Traffic

Street Science

Getting beyond traffic capacity
Our Learned Approach

- Build it fast, build it cheap
- Faster, straighter, wider = better
- Don’t worry about abutting property
- Just get ‘er done
Boulder
Portland
You can’t design a street like this…
...and expect this to result.
Elements of the Street
Elements of the Street

1. Street Wall
2. Pedestrian Realm
3. Overhead Area
4. Vehicle Realm
5. Subsurface Area
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Characteristics of Street Elements

1. Street Wall

Characteristics:
- Height
- Urban Scale
- Building Articulation
- Transparency/Glazing
- Entry Frequency
- Canopies & Arcades
2. Pedestrian Realm

Characteristics:

- Cross Section
- Amenities
- Canopies & Arcades
- Crosswalks
- Street Trees
Characteristics of Street Elements

3. Overhead Area

Characteristics:

- Utilities
- Street Trees
- Lighting
- Canopies & Arcades
Characteristics of Street Elements

4. Vehicle Realm

Characteristics:

- Number of Lanes
- Lane Width
- On-Street Parking
- Traffic Speed
- Traffic Volume
- Traffic Control Systems
5. Subsurface Area

Characteristics:

Storm Water Drainage  Utilities
Two Kinds of Commercial/Mixed Use Streets – Land Use Economics

Pass-By Traffic Streets

Destination Streets
Pass-By Traffic Streets

- Auto-oriented retail
- Gas, cigarettes, tires, fast food, cleaners, drive-through banks, grocery stores, convenience retail, liquor stores
- Low employment per square foot
- High parking turn over rate
- High traffic counts, but most of the traffic is pass-by, not “generated” by the land uses
- Low land value & tax base
Destination Streets

- Pedestrian-oriented retail
- Apparel stores, book stores, specialty retail
- Destination restaurants and bars
- Higher employment per square foot
- Lower parking turn over rate
- Lower traffic counts, but much of the traffic is actually generated by the land uses
- High land value & tax base
Anywhere, USA
Two Kinds of Commercial Streets – Based on Economics

Pass-By Traffic Streets

Destination Streets
Great Streets – Resources

- Book: “Great Streets” by Alan Jacobs
- Web Sites:
  - St. Louis (East-West Gateway COG)
    www.greatstreetsstlouis.net
  - APA
    www.planning.org/greatplaces/streets/index.htm
  - Great Streets
    http://www.greatstreets.org/
  - Our site
    www.charlier.org
What is the St. Louis Great Streets Initiative?

**East-West Gateway** launched the St. Louis Great Streets Initiative in early 2006 to expand the way communities think of their streets. Rather than viewing a roadway project as solely a way to move more cars and trucks faster, the goal of the St. Louis Great Streets Initiative is to trigger economic and social benefits by centering communities around interesting, lively and attractive streets that serve all modes of transportation. Learn More ❯

💡 What is a Place Type? Click Here to Learn More!

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**How to Use this Guide**

- Document Library
- Design Tutorial
- Related Events
- Demonstration Projects
- Why Great Streets?
- Glossary
- Site Map
- Credits

**Design Tutorial**

- The Design Tutorial is a Flash based guide to help users understand the many elements of the street and provide direct links to related articles for all eight place types

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**Why Great Streets?**
Thank You